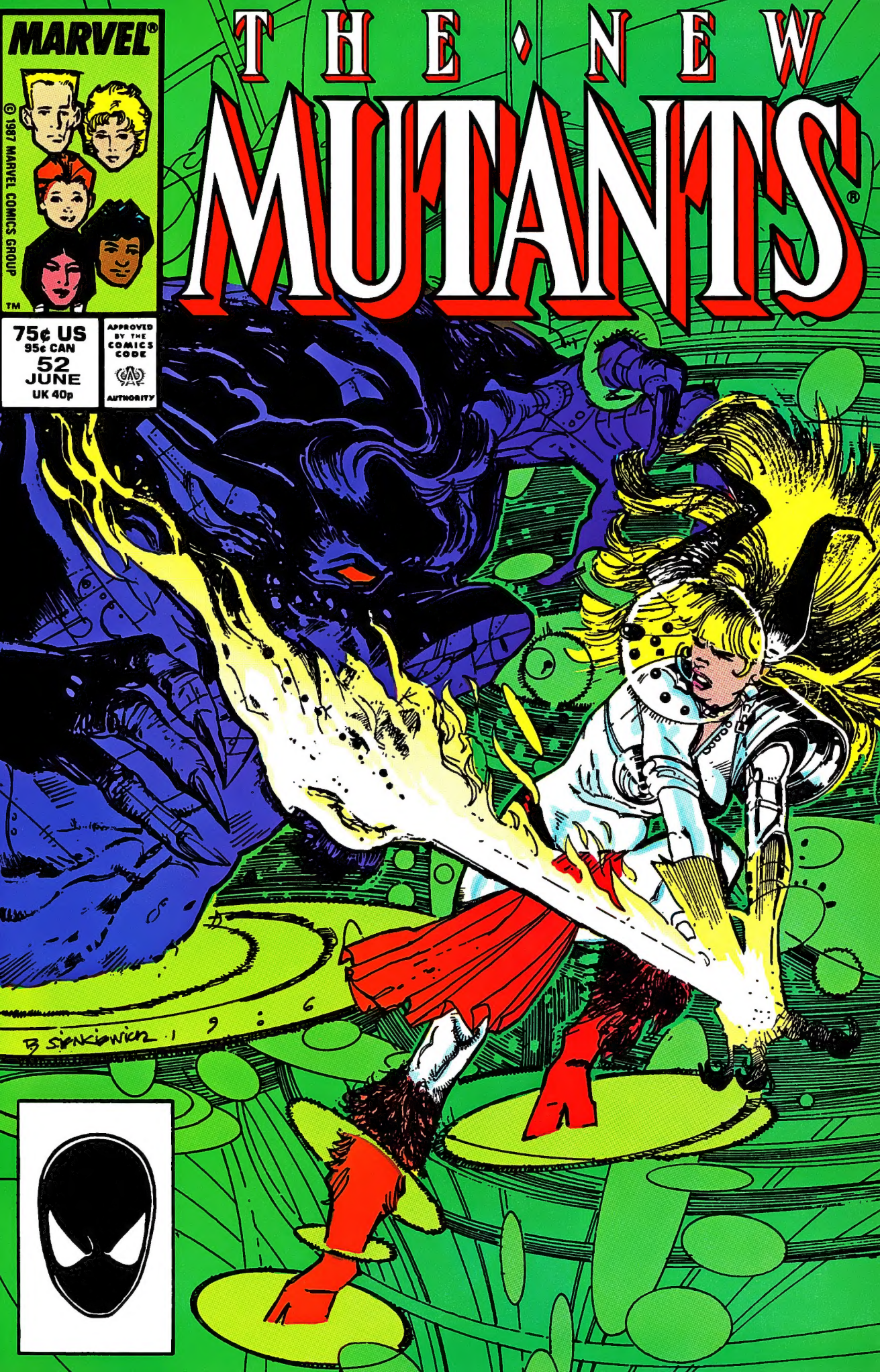
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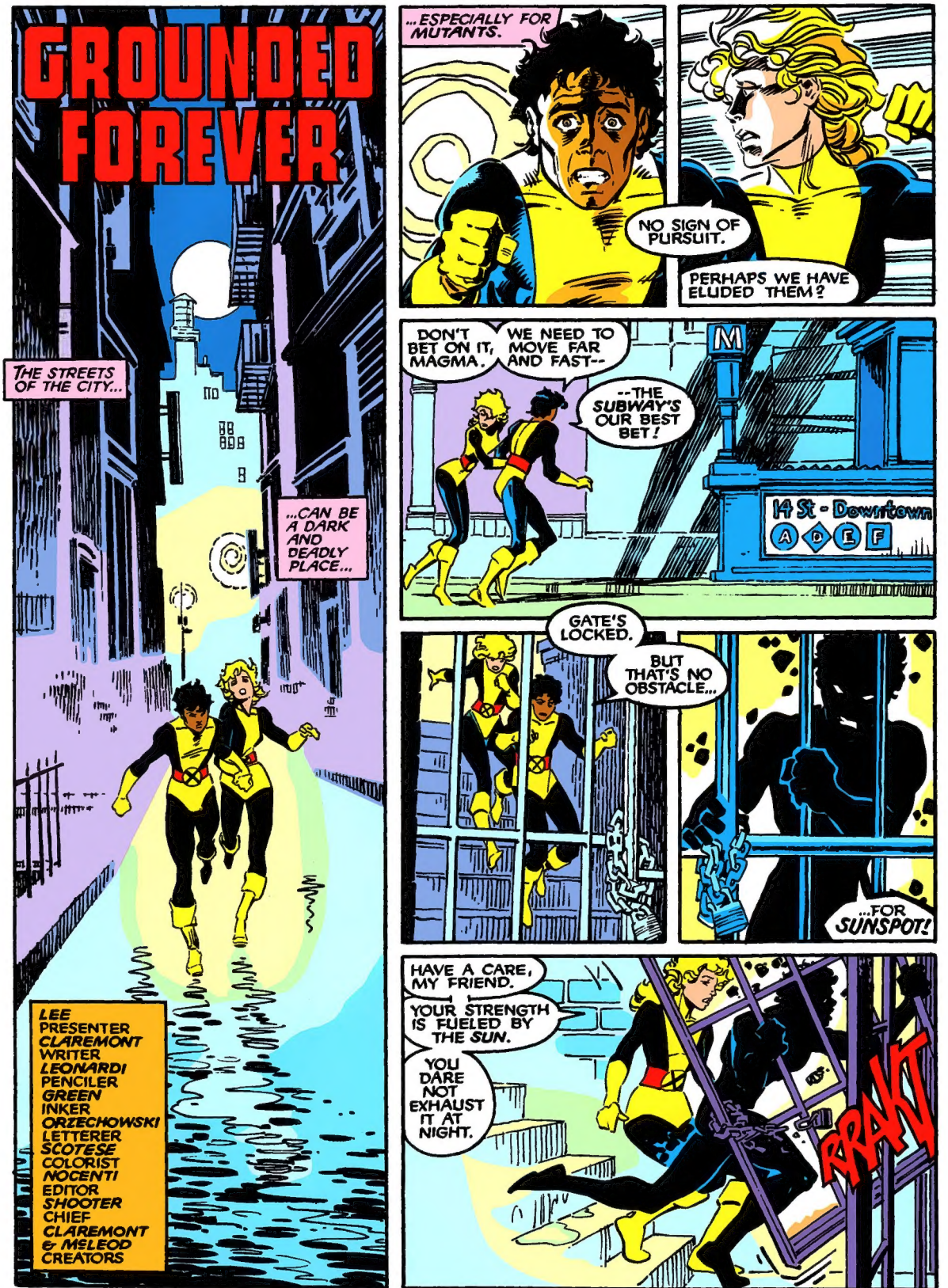

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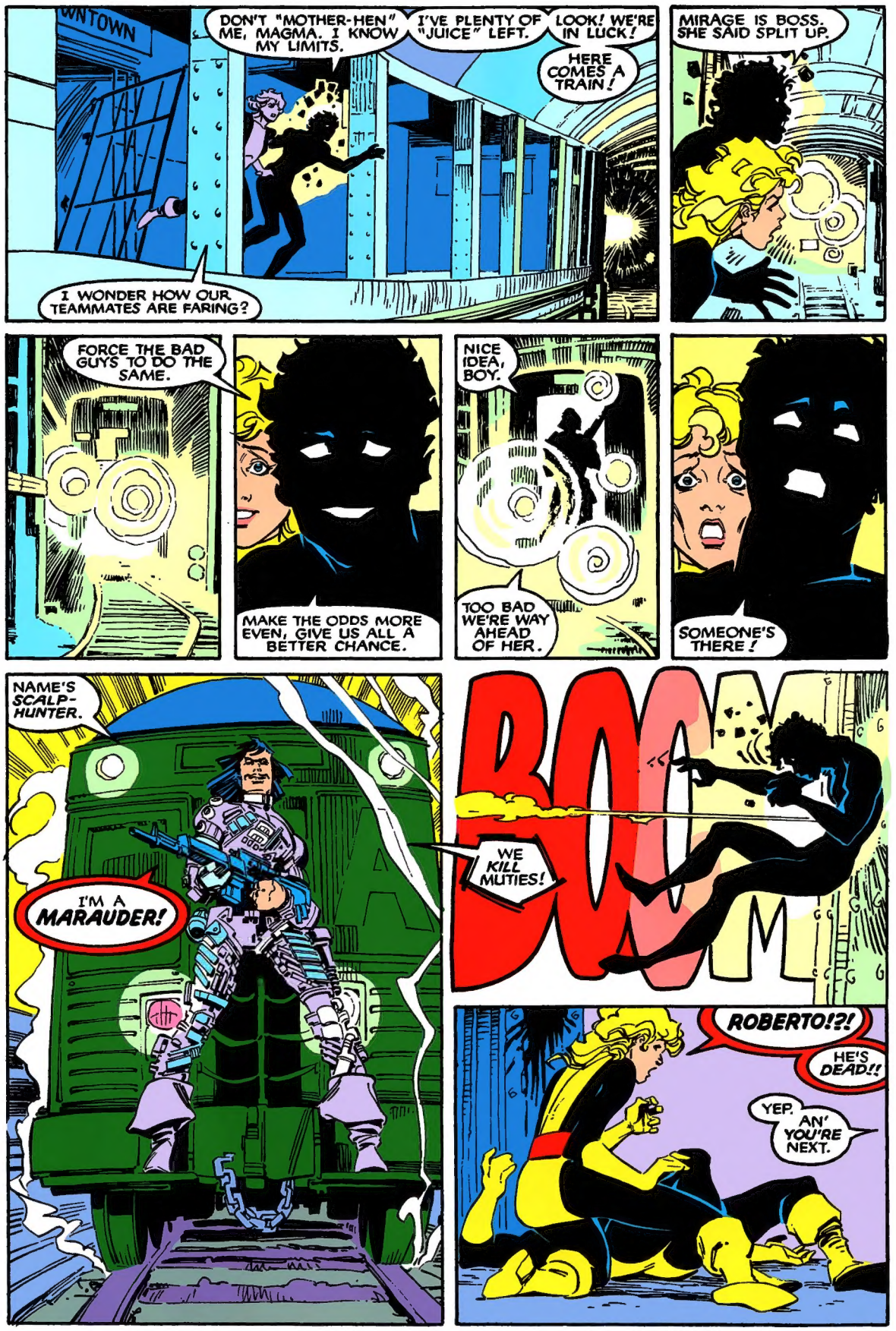
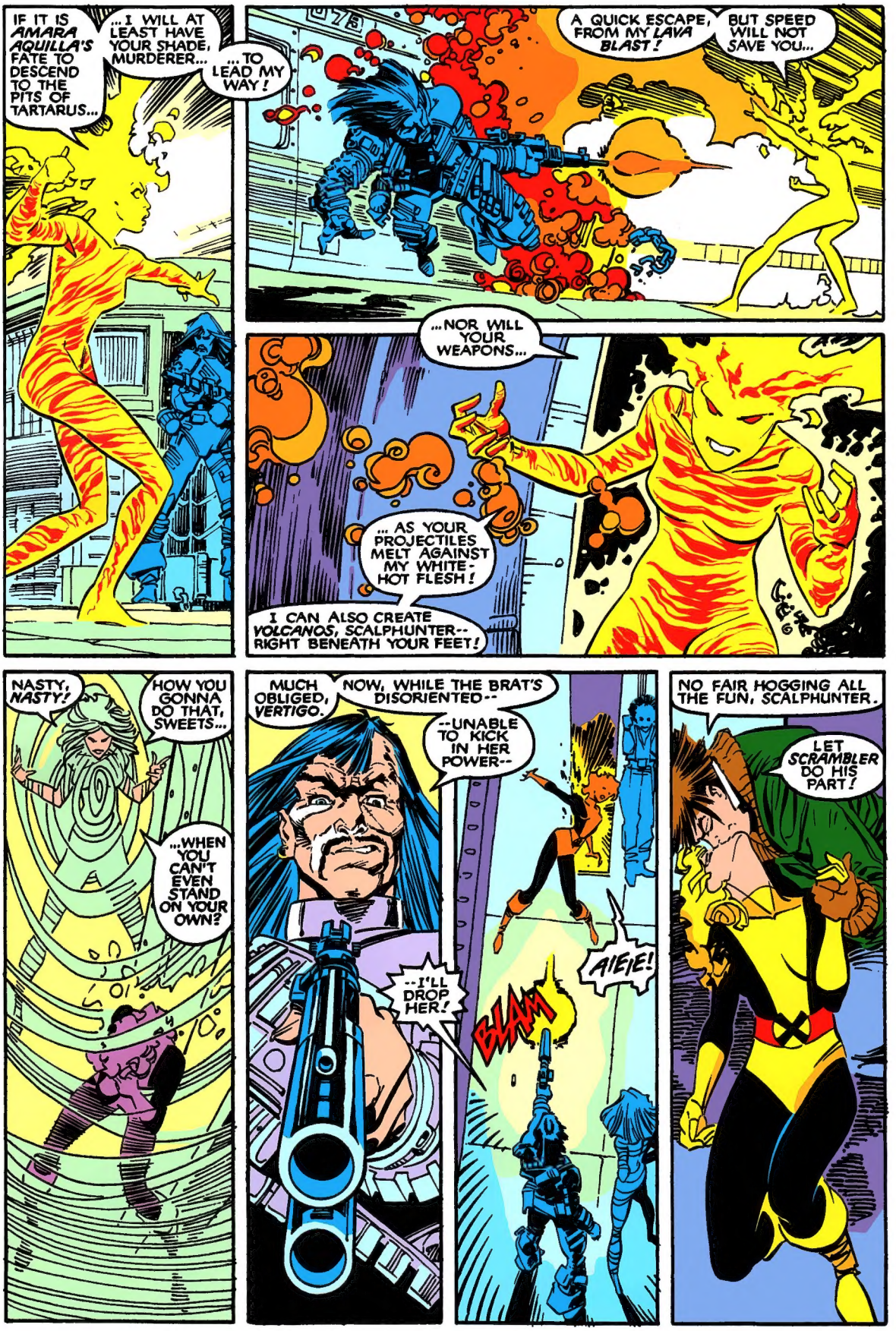
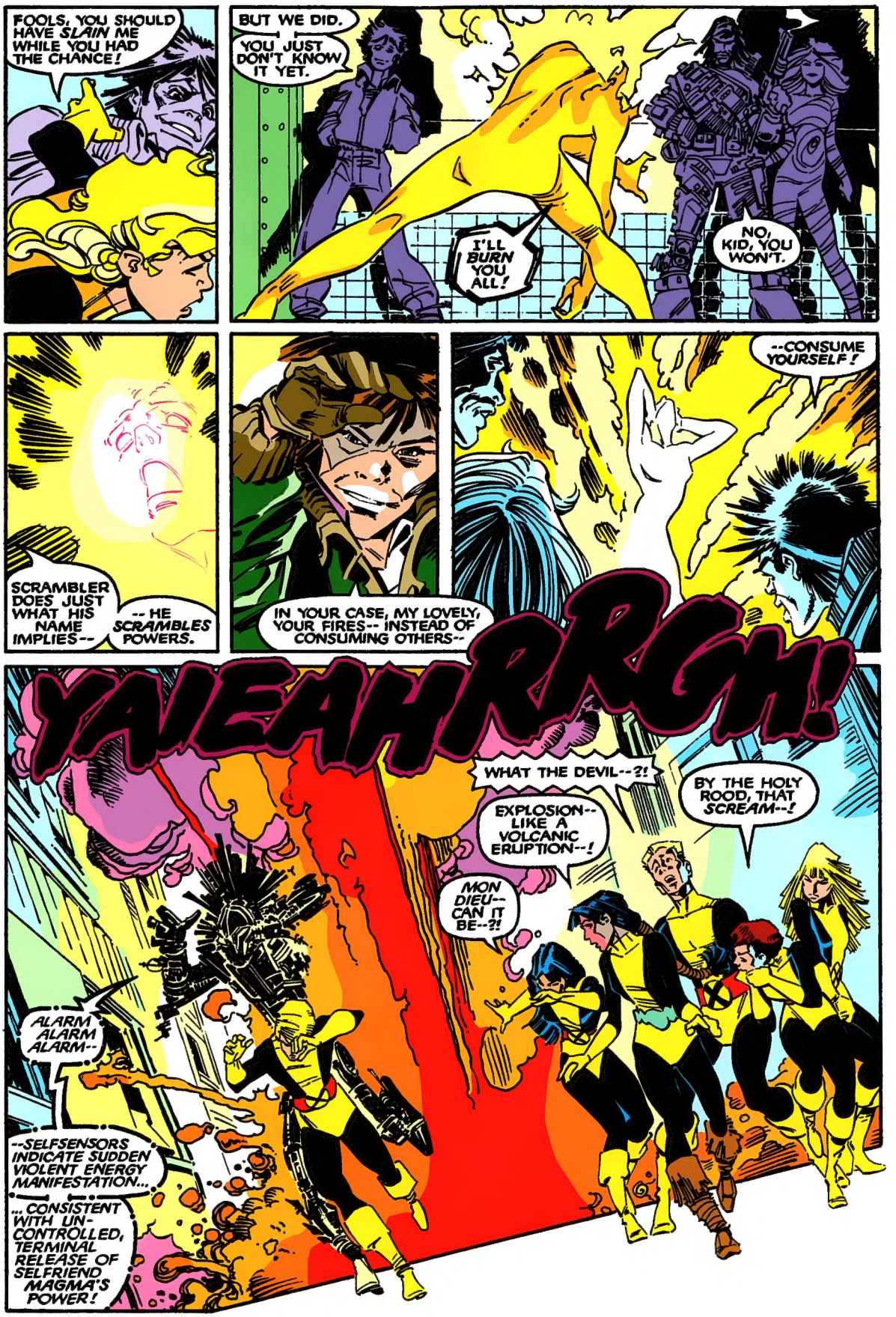
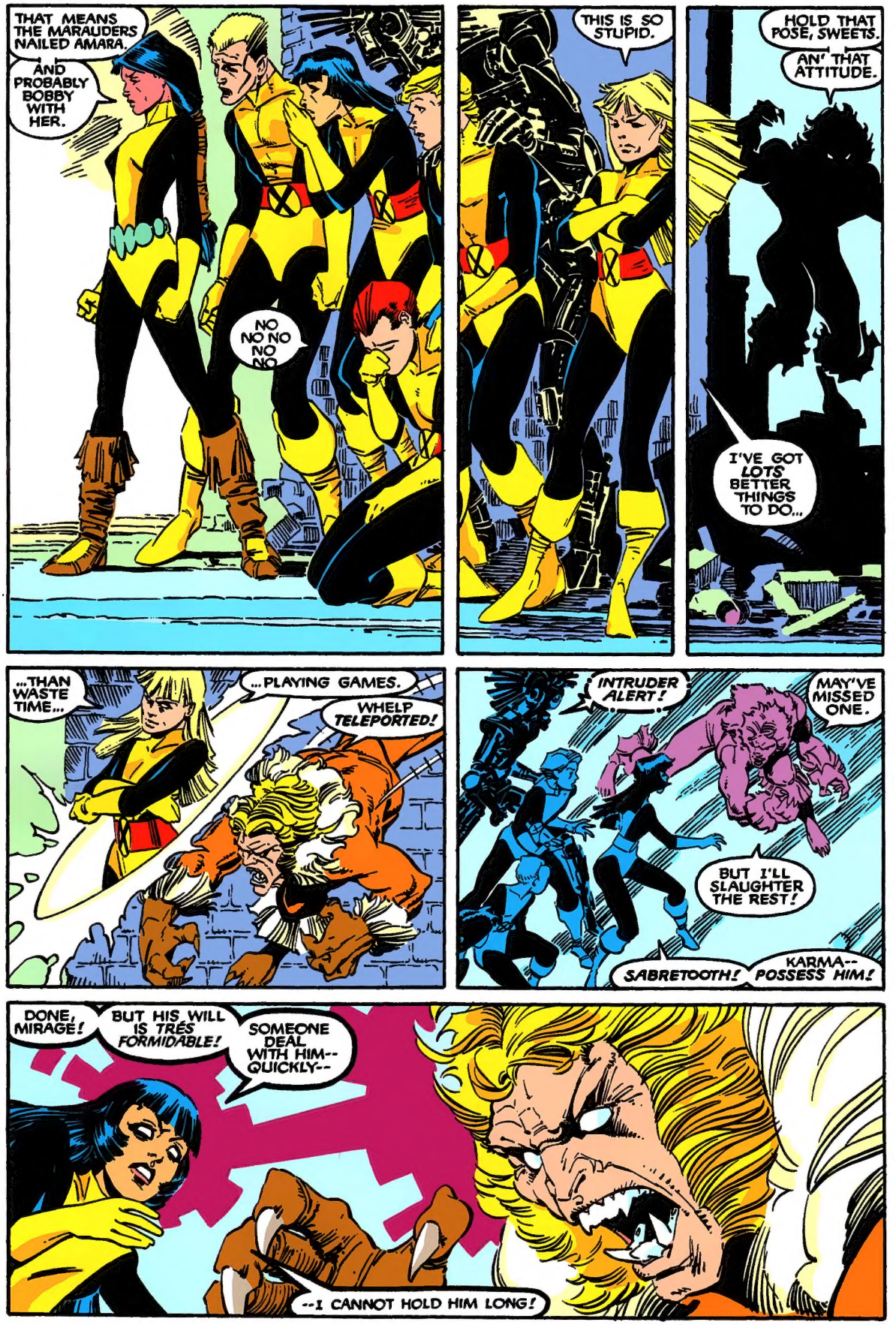
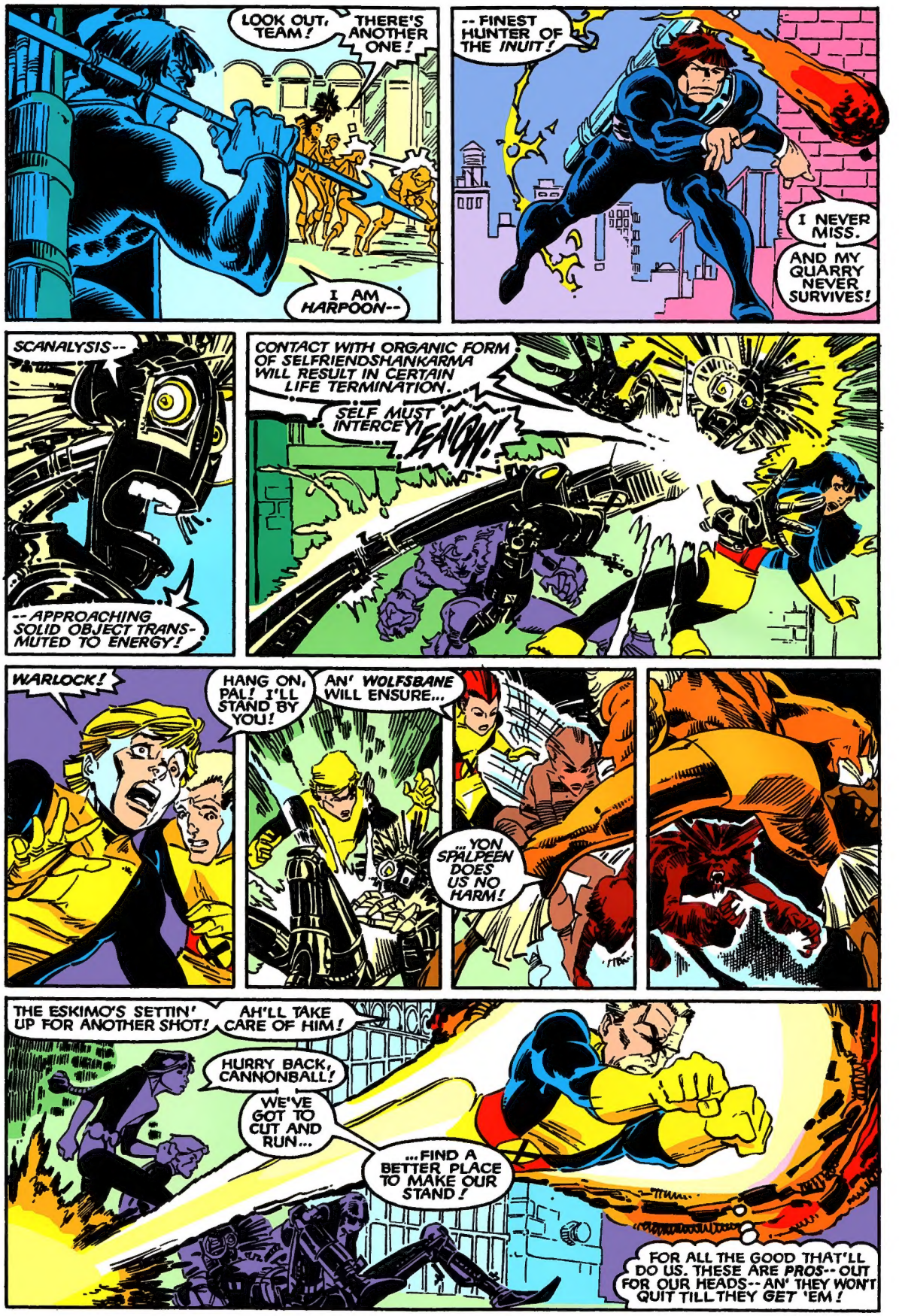
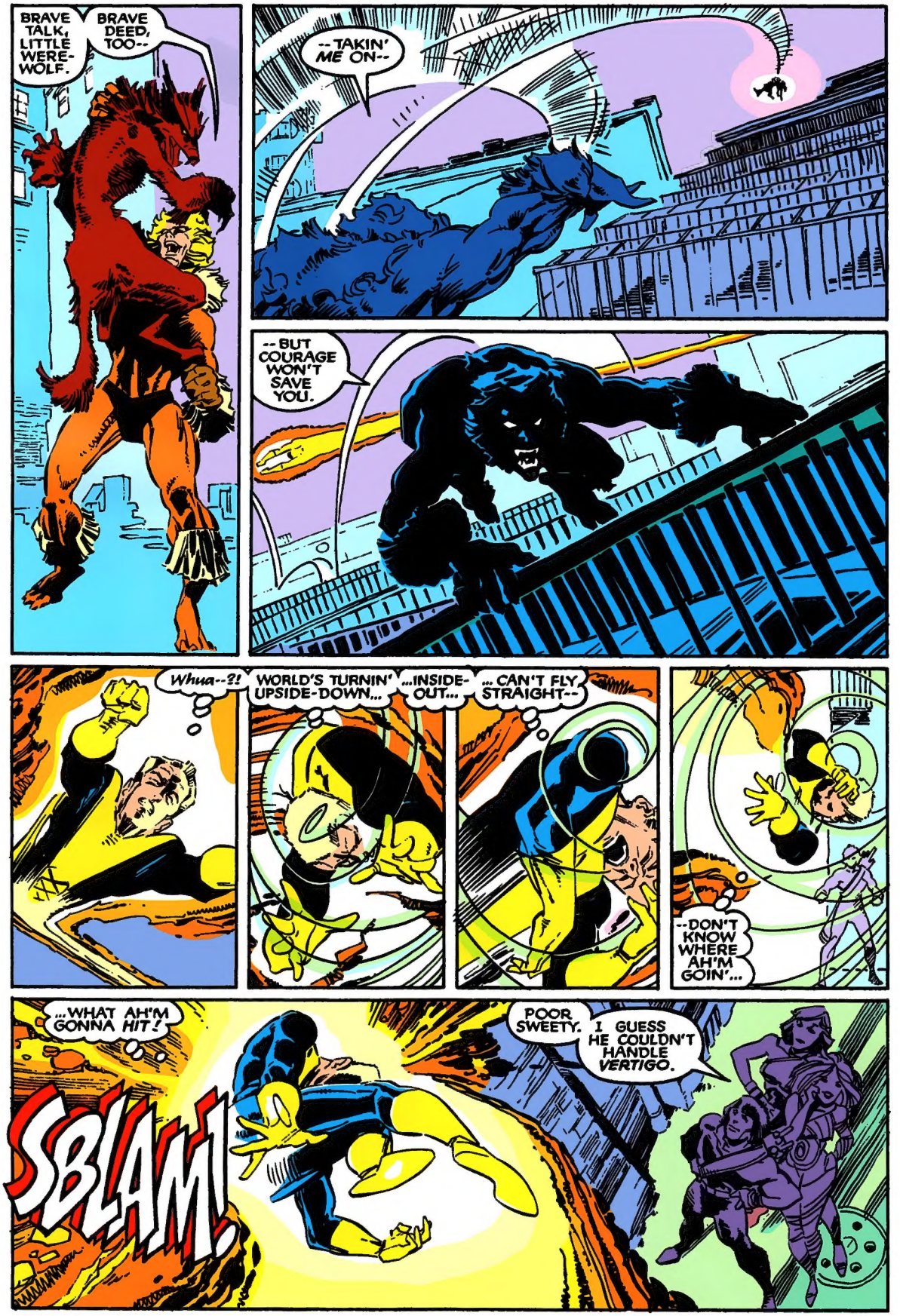

WNTOWN
DON'T "MOTHER-HEN" ME, MAGMA. I KNOW MY LIMITS.
I'VE PLENTY OF "JUICE" LEFT.
LOOK! WE'RE IN LUCK!
HERE COMES A TRAIN!
I WONDER HOW OUR TEAMMATES ARE FARING?
MIRAGE IS BOSS. SHE SAID SPLIT UP.
FORCE THE BAD GUYS TO DO THE SAME.
MAKE THE ODDS MORE EVEN, GIVE US ALL A BETTER CHANCE.
NICE IDEA, BOY.
TOO BAD WE'RE WAY AHEAD OF HER.
SOMEONE'S THERE!
NAME'S SCALP-HUNTER.
I'M A MARAUDER!
BOOM
WE KILL MUTIES!
ROBERTO!?!
HE'S DEAD!!
YEP. AN' YOU'RE NEXT.

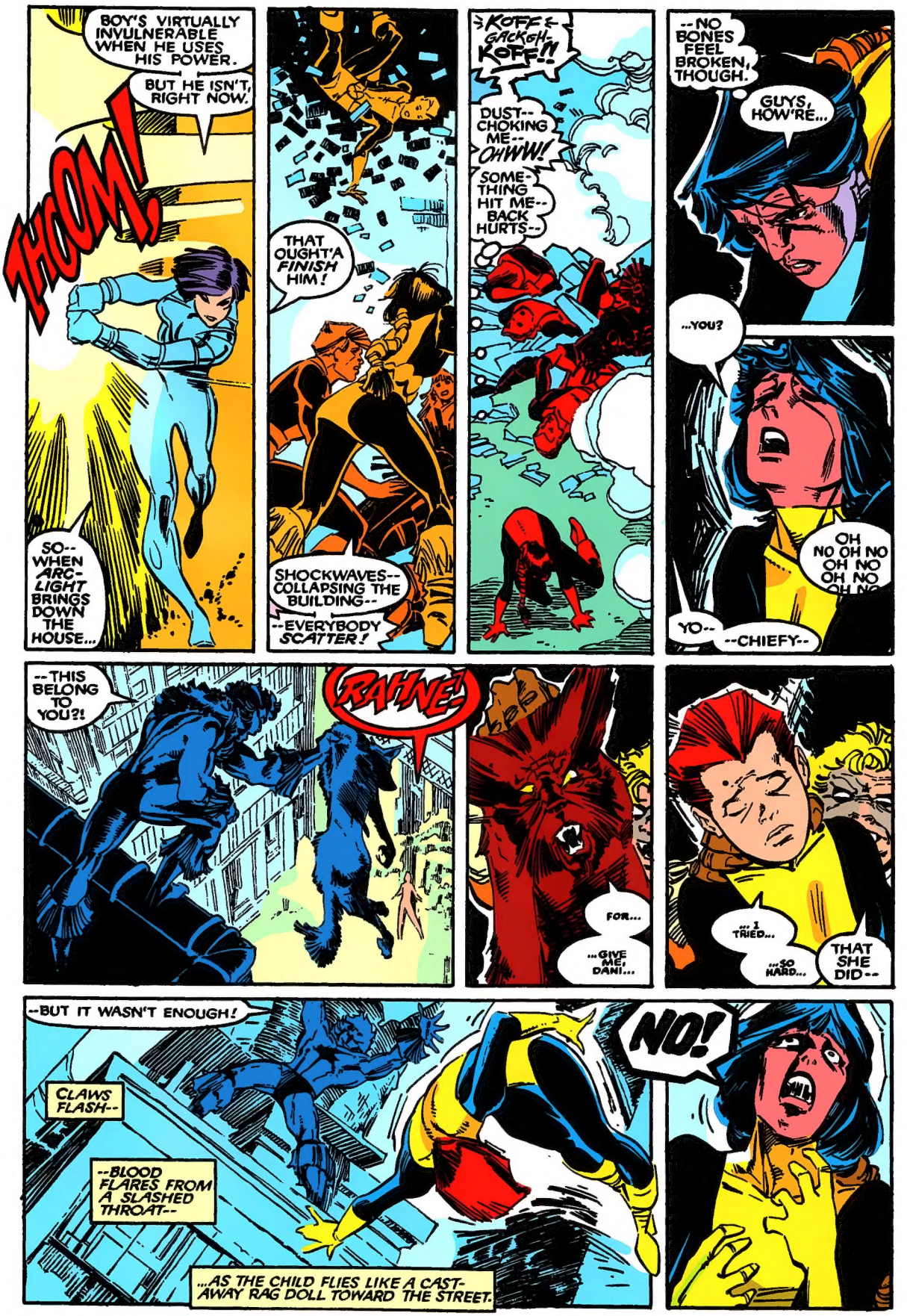

IF IT IS AMARA AQUILLA'S FATE TO DESCEND TO THE PITS OF TARTARUS...
...I WILL AT LEAST HAVE YOUR SHADE, MURDERER...
...TO LEAD MY WAY!
A QUICK ESCAPE, FROM MY LAVA BLAST!
BUT SPEED WILL NOT SAVE YOU...
...NOR WILL YOUR WEAPONS...
... AS YOUR PROJECTILES MELT AGAINST MY WHITE-HOT FLESH!
I CAN ALSO CREATE VOLCANOS, SCALPHUNTER-- RIGHT BENEATH YOUR FEET!
NASTY, NASTY!
HOW YOU GONNA DO THAT, SWEETS...
...WHEN YOU CAN'T EVEN STAND ON YOUR OWN?
MUCH OBLIGED, VERTIGO.
NOW, WHILE THE BRAT'S DISORIENTED--
--UNABLE TO KICK IN HER POWER--
--I'LL DROP HER!
BLAM
AIEIE!
NO FAIR HOGGING ALL THE FUN, SCALPHUNTER.
LET SCRAMBLER DO HIS PART!


FOOLS, YOU SHOULD HAVE *SLAIN* ME WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE!
BUT WE DID.
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET.
I'LL *BURN* YOU ALL!
NO, KID, YOU WON'T.
SCRAMBLER DOES JUST WHAT HIS NAME IMPLIES--
-- HE *SCRAMBLES* POWERS.
IN YOUR CASE, MY LOVELY, YOUR FIRES-- INSTEAD OF CONSUMING OTHERS--
--CONSUME YOURSELF!
YAIEAHRRGH!
WHAT THE DEVIL--?!
EXPLOSION-- LIKE A VOLCANIC ERUPTION--!
BY THE HOLY ROOD, THAT *SCREAM*--!
MON DIEU-- CAN IT BE--?!
ALARM ALARM ALARM--
--SELFSENSORS INDICATE SUDDEN VIOLENT ENERGY MANIFESTATION...
... CONSISTENT WITH UN-CONTROLLED, TERMINAL RELEASE OF SELFRIEND MAGMA'S POWER!


THAT MEANS THE MARAUDERS NAILED AMARA.
AND PROBABLY BOBBY WITH HER.
NO NO NO NO NO
THIS IS SO STUPID.
HOLD THAT POSE, SWEETS.
AN' THAT ATTITUDE.
I'VE GOT LOTS BETTER THINGS TO DO...
...THAN WASTE TIME...
...PLAYING GAMES.
WHELP TELEPORTED!
INTRUDER ALERT!
MAY'VE MISSED ONE.
BUT I'LL SLAUGHTER THE REST!
SABRETOOTH!
KARMA-- POSSESS HIM!
DONE, MIRAGE!
BUT HIS WILL IS TRÉS FORMIDABLE!
SOMEONE DEAL WITH HIM-- QUICKLY--
--I CANNOT HOLD HIM LONG!

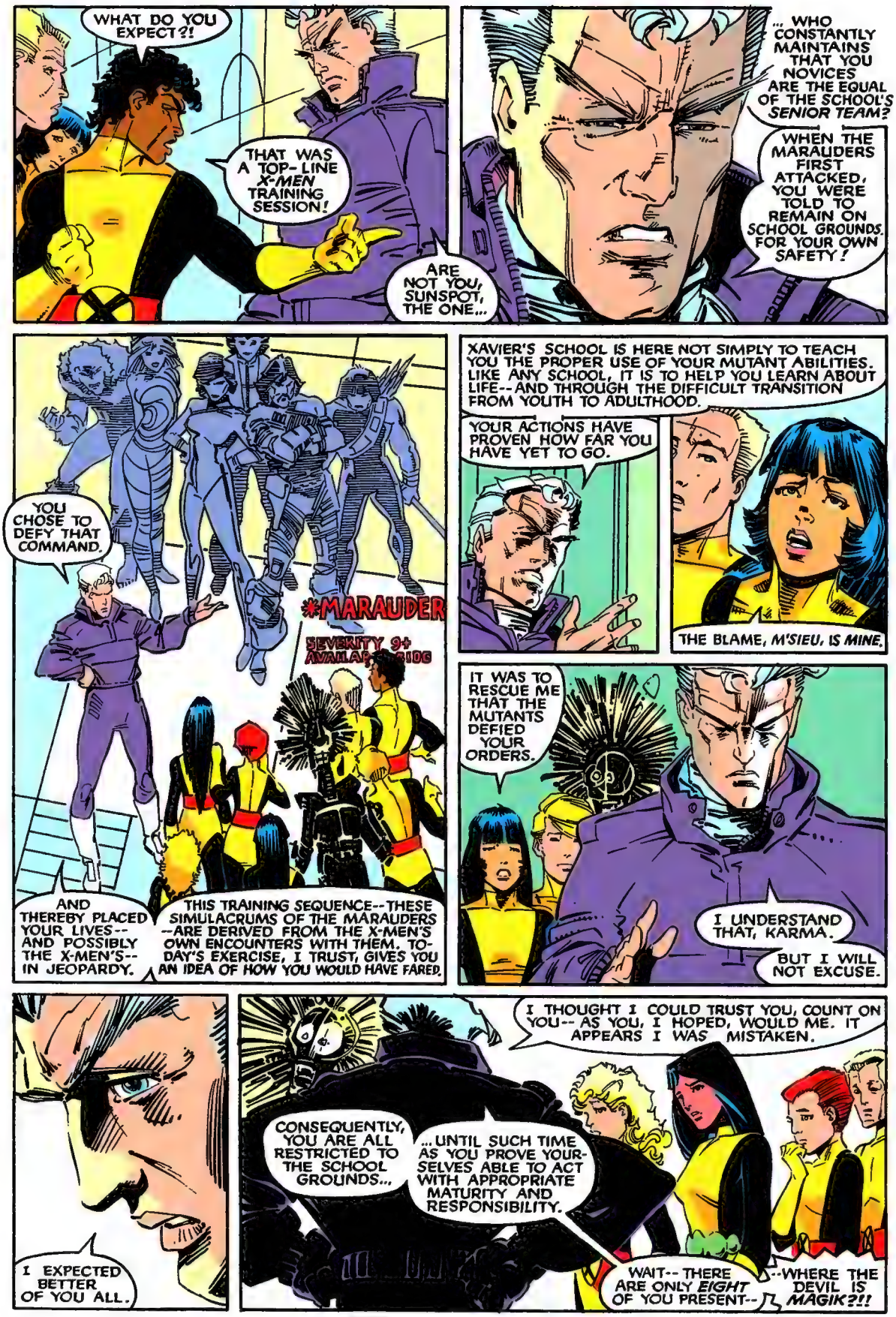

LOOK OUT, TEAM! THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
I AM HARPOON--
-- FINEST HUNTER OF THE INUIT!
I NEVER MISS.
AND MY QUARRY NEVER SURVIVES!
SCANALYSIS--
--APPROACHING SOLID OBJECT TRANS-MUTED TO ENERGY!
CONTACT WITH ORGANIC FORM OF SELFRIENDSHANKARMA WILL RESULT IN CERTAIN LIFE TERMINATION.
SELF MUST INTERCEY!
EAICH!
WARLOCK!
HANG ON, PAL! I'LL STAND BY YOU!
AN' WOLFSBANE WILL ENSURE...
...YON SPALPEEN DOES US NO HARM!
THE ESKIMO'S SETTIN' UP FOR ANOTHER SHOT!
AH'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
HURRY BACK, CANNONBALL!
WE'VE GOT TO CUT AND RUN...
...FIND A BETTER PLACE TO MAKE OUR STAND!
FOR ALL THE GOOD THAT'LL DO US. THESE ARE PROS-- OUT FOR OUR HEADS-- AN' THEY WON'T QUIT TILL THEY GET 'EM!

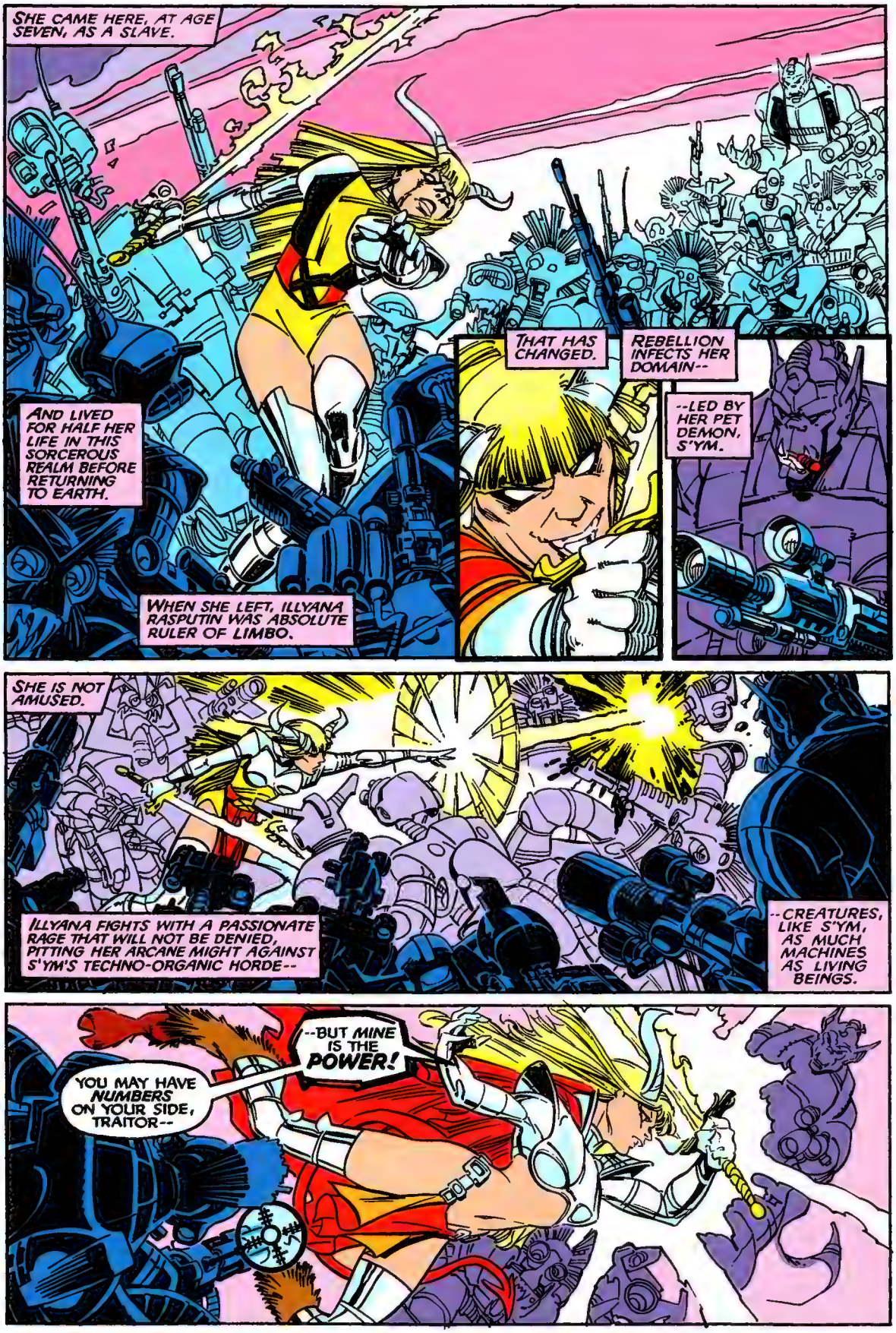

BRAVE TALK, LITTLE WERE-WOLF.
BRAVE DEED, TOO--
--TAKIN' ME ON--
--BUT COURAGE WON'T SAVE YOU.
Whua--?!
WORLD'S TURNIN' UPSIDE-DOWN...
...INSIDE-OUT...
...CAN'T FLY STRAIGHT--
--DON'T KNOW WHERE AH'M GOIN'...
...WHAT AH'M GONNA HIT!
SBLAM!
POOR SWEETY.
I GUESS HE COULDN'T HANDLE VERTIGO.

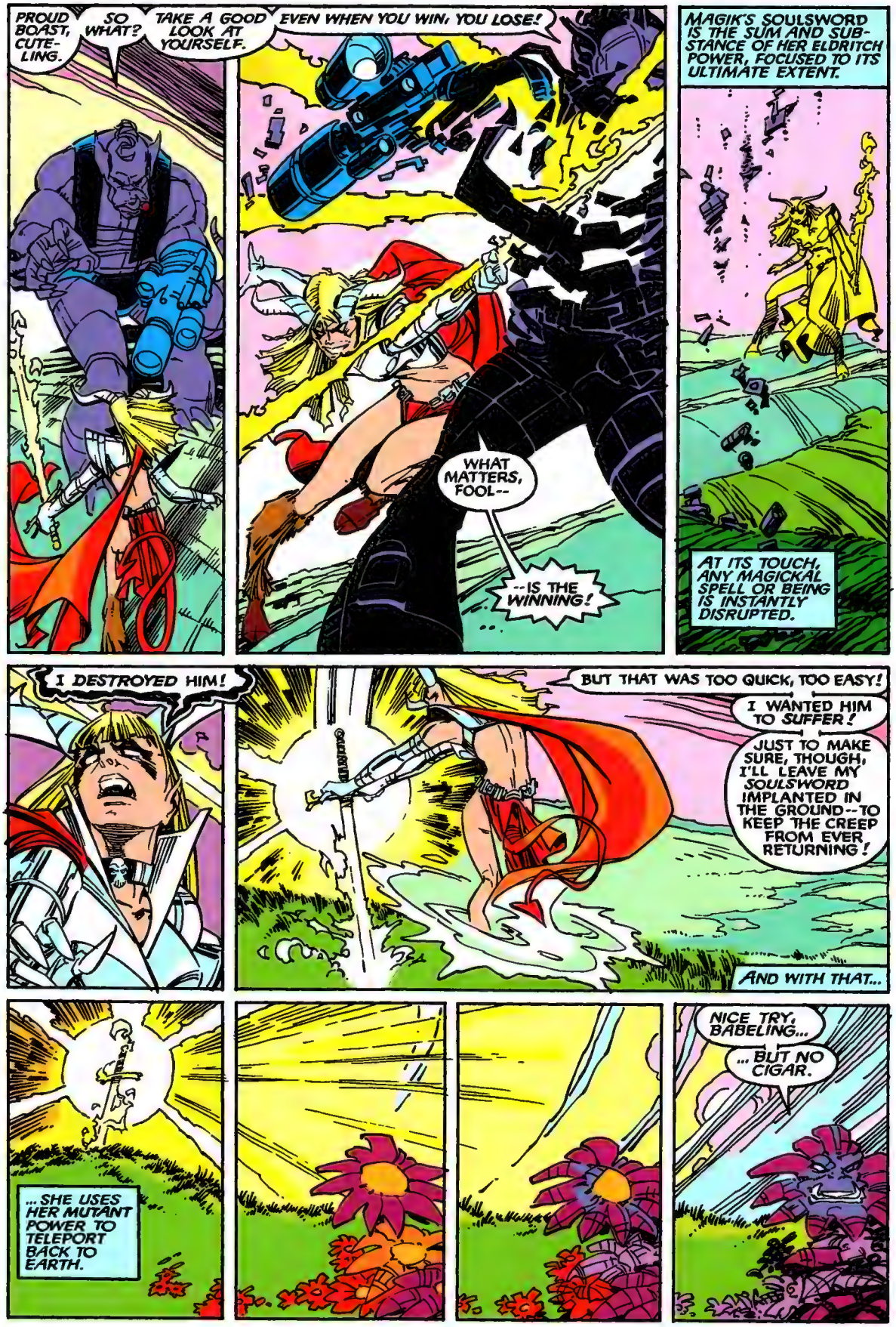

BOY'S VIRTUALLY INVULNERABLE WHEN HE USES HIS POWER.
BUT HE ISN'T, RIGHT NOW.
THOOM!
SO--WHEN ARC-LIGHT BRINGS DOWN THE HOUSE...
THAT OUGHT'A FINISH HIM!
SHOCKWAVES--COLLAPSING THE BUILDING--
--EVERYBODY SCATTER!
KOFF GACKGH- KOFF!!
DUST--CHOKING ME--
OHWW!
SOMETHING HIT ME--BACK HURTS--
--NO BONES FEEL BROKEN, THOUGH.
GUYS, HOW'RE...
...YOU?
OH NO OH NO OH NO OH NO
YO--
--CHIEFY--
--THIS BELONG TO YOU?!
RAHNE!
FOR...
...GIVE ME, DANI...
...I TRIED...
...SO HARD...
THAT SHE DID--
--BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH!
CLAWS FLASH--
--BLOOD FLARES FROM A SLASHED THROAT--
...AS THE CHILD FLIES LIKE A CAST-AWAY RAG DOLL TOWARD THE STREET.
NO!

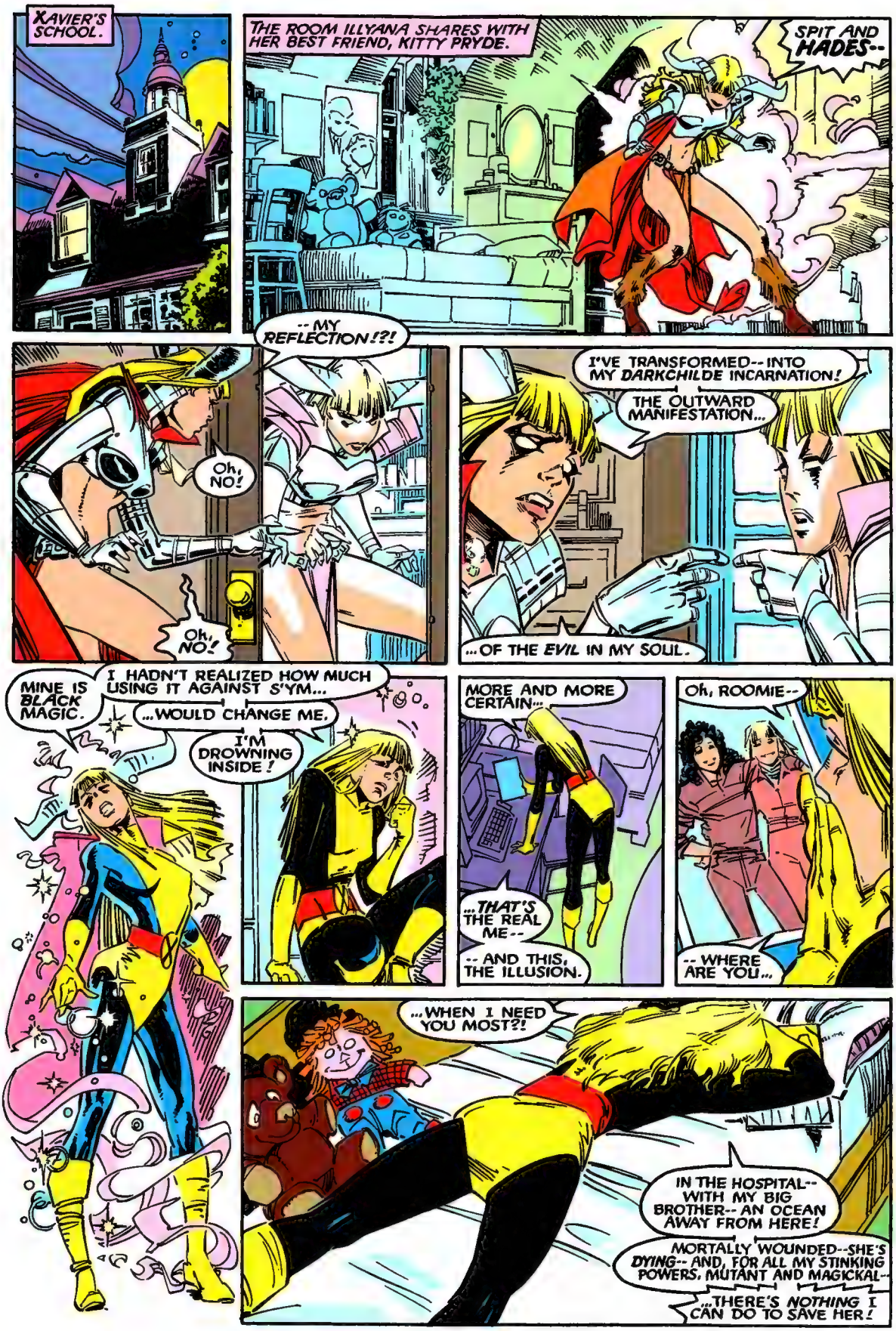
YOU LOSE, CHIEF.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
I HAVE A POWER, TOO, BUTCHER--
--I CAN TAKE YOUR HEART'S DESIRE...
...OR YOUR GREATEST FEAR...
... AND BRING IT TO LIFE!
TROUBLE IS, GIRL, SCALPHUNTER CONFRONTS HIS FEARS...
... HE NEVER RUNS FROM 'EM.
AN' HIS HEART'S DESIRE...
...IS DOIN' WHAT HE DOES BEST!
KLIK KLATCH
BYE-BYE, BABIES!

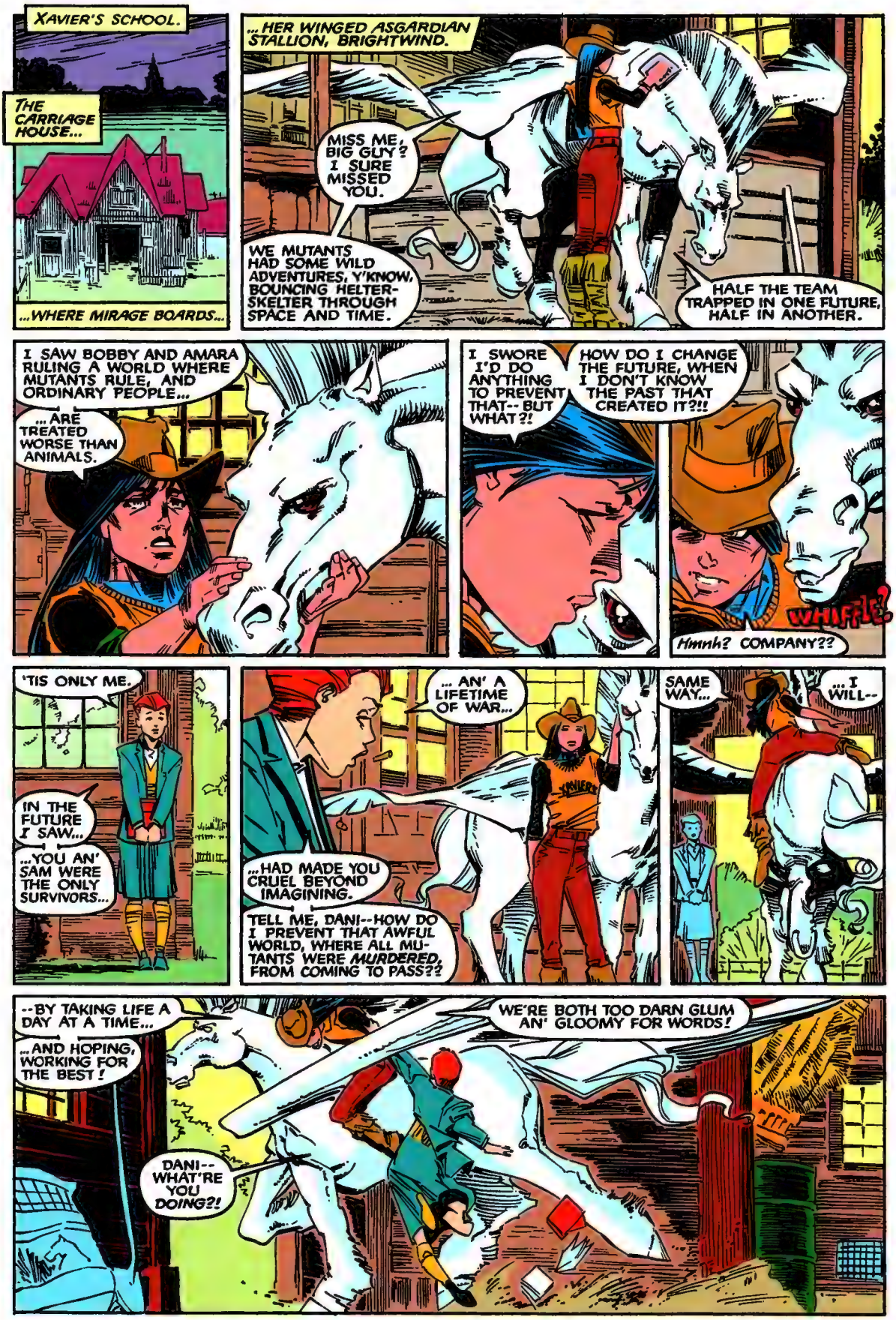
PROGRAM ENDED.
DANGER ROOM DEACTIVATED.
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION ROUTINE RUNNING.
ON YOUR FEET, STUDENTS.
YOU ARE NONE OF YOU DEAD-- THOUGH YOU MAY FEEL LIKE IT...
... AND, PERHAPS, BEFORE I AM DONE, WISH YOU WERE.
SHOW-OFF--
-- USING YOUR MAGNETIC POWER TO CANCEL GRAVITY.
BET YOU WOULDN'T HAVE FARED ANY BETTER.
WAIOW!
I'VE NEVER BEEN THROUGH SO REAL A DANGER ROOM EXERCISE.
ECHO SELFRIEND'S OBSERVATION. EVEN SELF'S SCANSYSTEMS WERE DECEIVED.
THAT'S THE IDEA IN HERE, WARLOCK.
LUCKY THIS WAS ONLY A TEST.
YOU MISS THE POINT, DOUG--
--WE FAILED!
ELAPSED TIME OF EXERCISE, 327 SECONDS.
BARELY FIVE MINUTES.
RESULT, TERMINATION OF ALL STUDENT PARTICIPANTS.
OPPOSING CASUALTIES, MINOR AND COSMETIC.
HARDLY A PERFORMANCE TO BE PROUD OF.

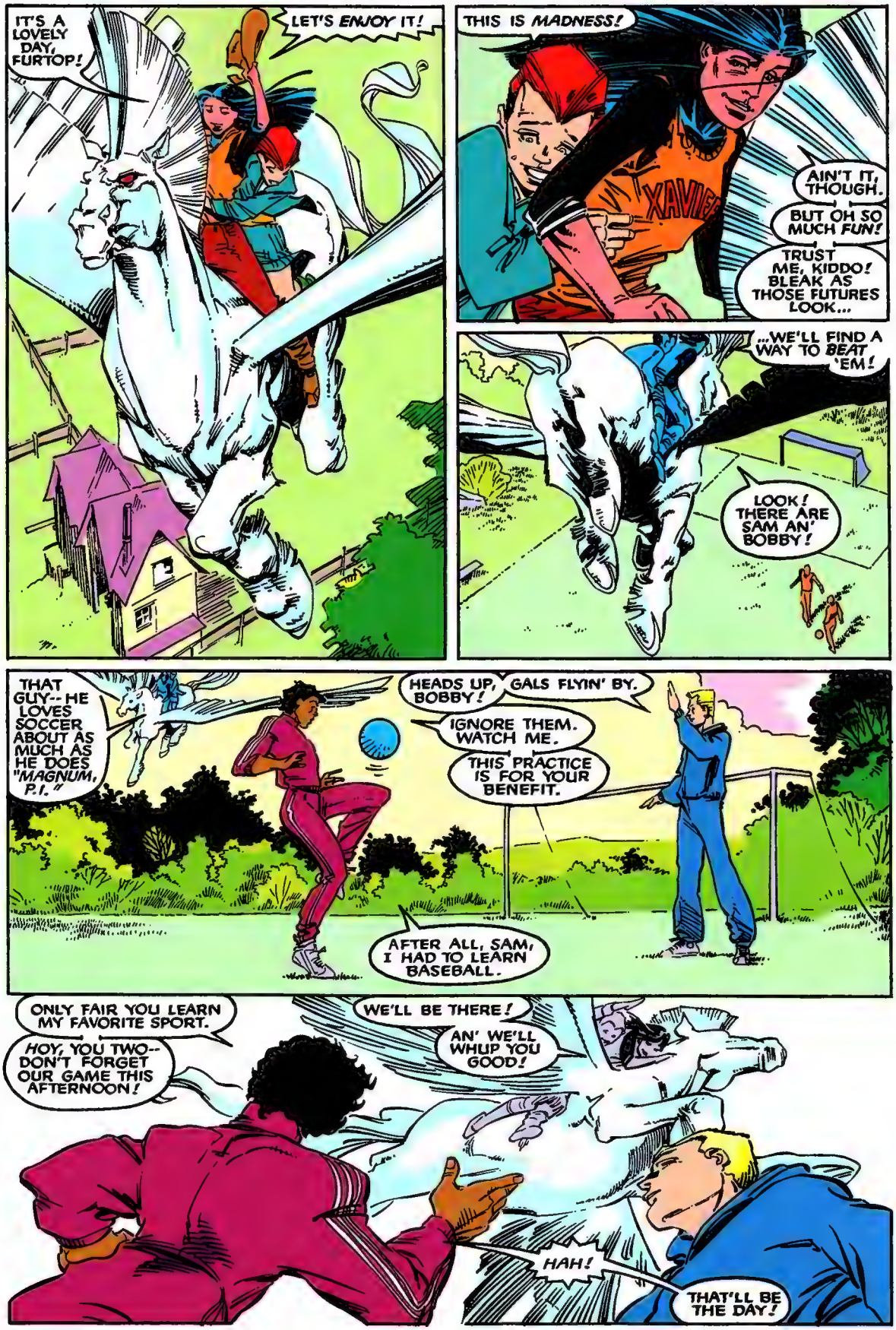

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?!
THAT WAS A TOP-LINE X-MEN TRAINING SESSION!
ARE NOT YOU, SUNSPOT, THE ONE...
... WHO CONSTANTLY MAINTAINS THAT YOU NOVICES ARE THE EQUAL OF THE SCHOOL'S SENIOR TEAM?
WHEN THE MARAUDERS FIRST ATTACKED, YOU WERE TOLD TO REMAIN ON SCHOOL GROUNDS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY!
YOU CHOSE TO DEFY THAT COMMAND.
*MARAUDER
SEVERITY 9+
AND THEREBY PLACED YOUR LIVES--AND POSSIBLY THE X-MEN'S--IN JEOPARDY.
THIS TRAINING SEQUENCE--THESE SIMULACRUMS OF THE MARAUDERS--ARE DERIVED FROM THE X-MEN'S OWN ENCOUNTERS WITH THEM. TODAY'S EXERCISE, I TRUST, GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF HOW YOU WOULD HAVE FARED.
XAVIER'S SCHOOL IS HERE NOT SIMPLY TO TEACH YOU THE PROPER USE OF YOUR MUTANT ABILITIES. LIKE ANY SCHOOL, IT IS TO HELP YOU LEARN ABOUT LIFE--AND THROUGH THE DIFFICULT TRANSITION FROM YOUTH TO ADULTHOOD.
YOUR ACTIONS HAVE PROVEN HOW FAR YOU HAVE YET TO GO.
THE BLAME, M'SIEU, IS MINE.
IT WAS TO RESCUE ME THAT THE MUTANTS DEFIED YOUR ORDERS.
I UNDERSTAND THAT, KARMA.
BUT I WILL NOT EXCUSE.
I EXPECTED BETTER OF YOU ALL.
I THOUGHT I COULD TRUST YOU, COUNT ON YOU-- AS YOU, I HOPED, WOULD ME. IT APPEARS I WAS MISTAKEN.
CONSEQUENTLY, YOU ARE ALL RESTRICTED TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS...
...UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU PROVE YOURSELVES ABLE TO ACT WITH APPROPRIATE MATURITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.
WAIT-- THERE ARE ONLY EIGHT OF YOU PRESENT--
--WHERE THE DEVIL IS MAGIK?!!

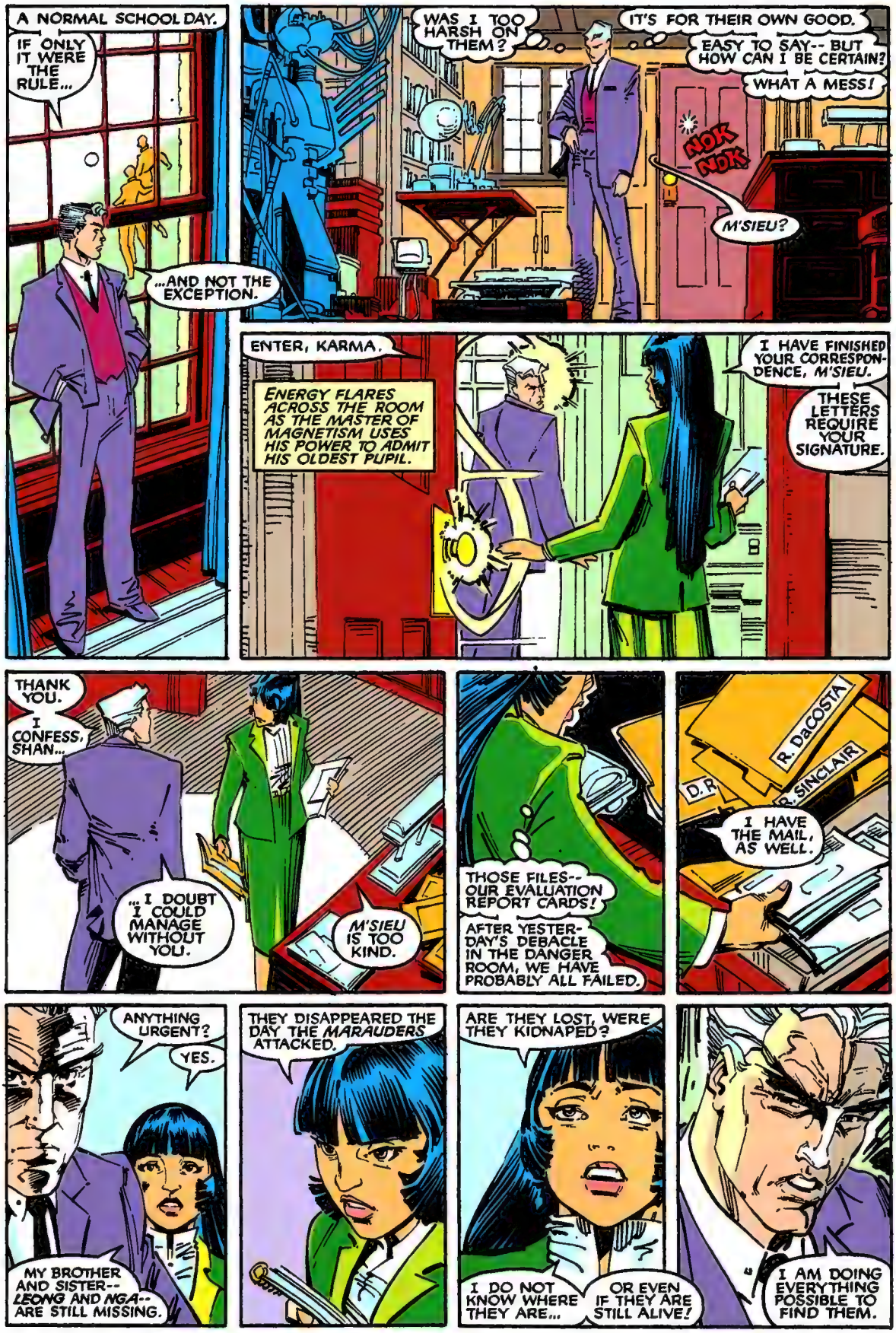

SHE CAME HERE, AT AGE SEVEN, AS A SLAVE.
AND LIVED FOR HALF HER LIFE IN THIS SORCEROUS REALM BEFORE RETURNING TO EARTH.
WHEN SHE LEFT, ILLYANA RASPUTIN WAS ABSOLUTE RULER OF LIMBO.
THAT HAS CHANGED.
REBELLION INFECTS HER DOMAIN--
--LED BY HER PET DEMON, S'YM.
SHE IS NOT AMUSED.
ILLYANA FIGHTS WITH A PASSIONATE RAGE THAT WILL NOT BE DENIED, PITTING HER ARCANE MIGHT AGAINST S'YM'S TECHNO-ORGANIC HORDE--
--CREATURES, LIKE S'YM, AS MUCH MACHINES AS LIVING BEINGS.
YOU MAY HAVE NUMBERS ON YOUR SIDE, TRAITOR--
--BUT MINE IS THE POWER!

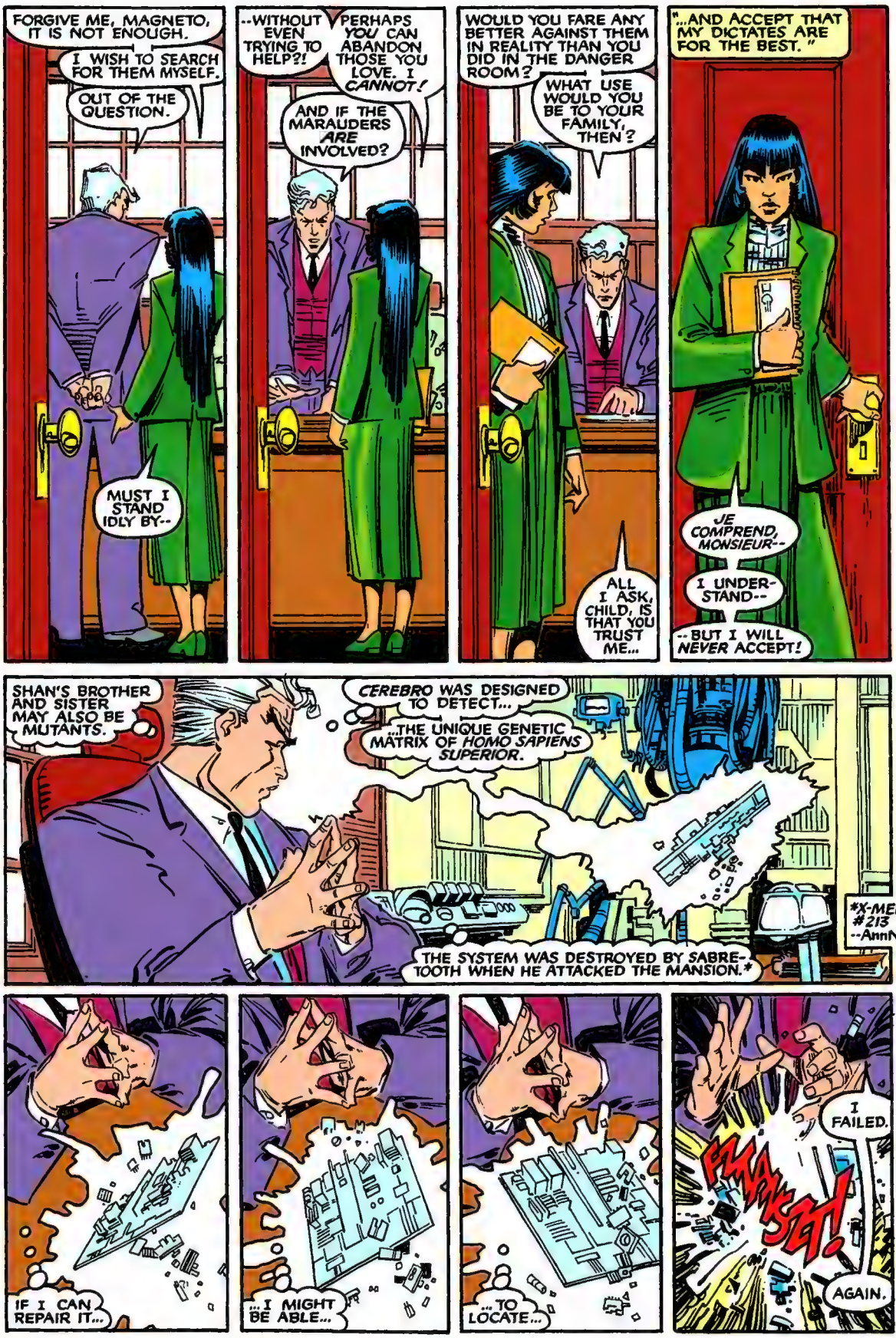

PROUD BOAST, CUTE-LING.
SO WHAT?
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOURSELF.
EVEN WHEN YOU WIN, YOU LOSE!
WHAT MATTERS, FOOL--
--IS THE WINNING!
MAGIK'S SOULSWORD IS THE SUM AND SUB-STANCE OF HER ELDRITCH POWER, FOCUSED TO ITS ULTIMATE EXTENT.
AT ITS TOUCH, ANY MAGICKAL SPELL OR BEING IS INSTANTLY DISRUPTED.
I DESTROYED HIM!
BUT THAT WAS TOO QUICK, TOO EASY!
I WANTED HIM TO SUFFER!
JUST TO MAKE SURE, THOUGH, I'LL LEAVE MY SOULSWORD IMPLANTED IN THE GROUND--TO KEEP THE CREEP FROM EVER RETURNING!
AND WITH THAT...
...SHE USES HER MUTANT POWER TO TELEPORT BACK TO EARTH.
NICE TRY, BABELING...
...BUT NO CIGAR.

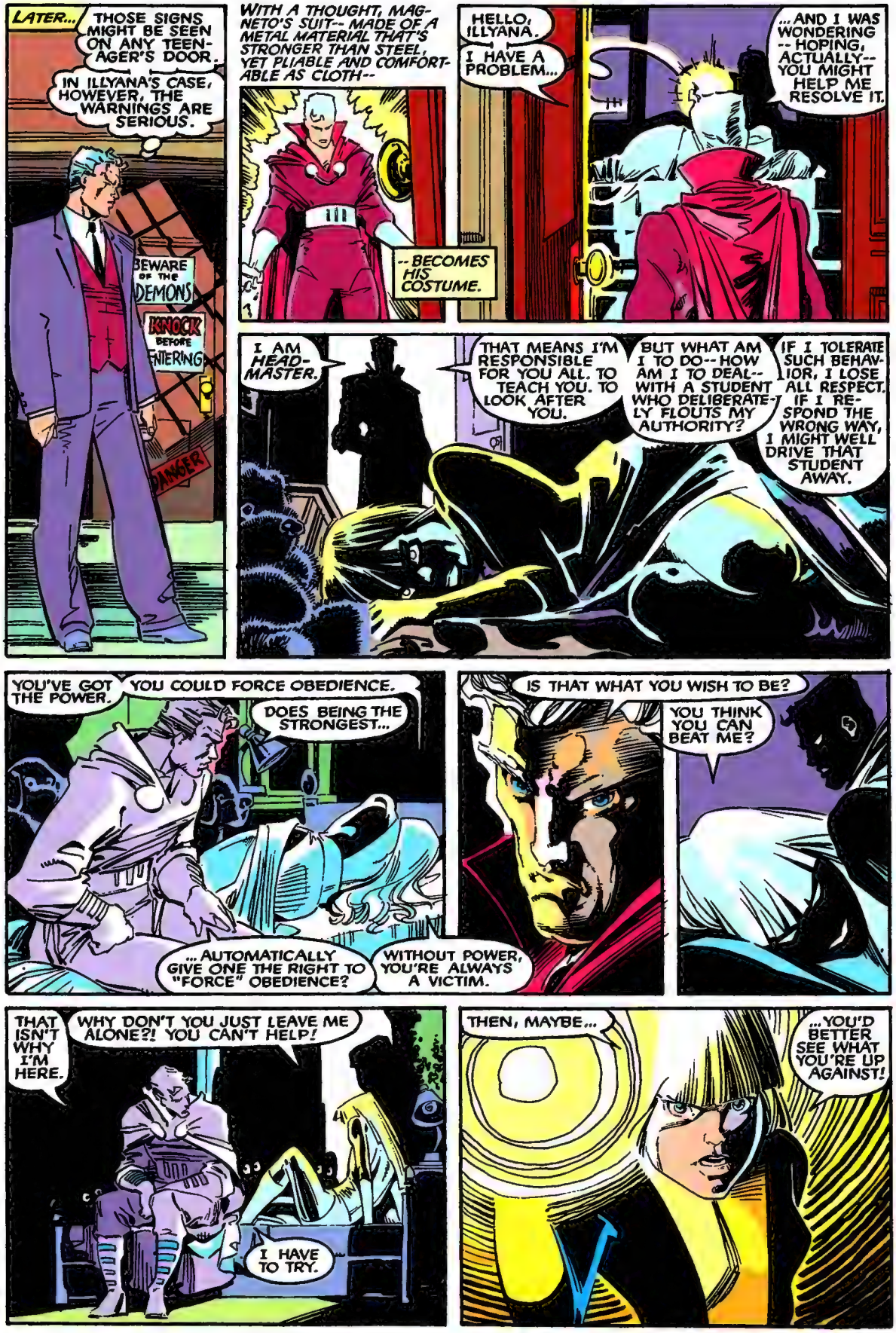

XAVIER'S SCHOOL.
THE ROOM ILLYANA SHARES WITH HER BEST FRIEND, KITTY PRYDE.
SPIT AND HADES--
-- MY REFLECTION!?!
Oh, NO!
Oh, NO!
I'VE TRANSFORMED-- INTO MY DARKCHILDE INCARNATION!
THE OUTWARD MANIFESTATION...
...OF THE EVIL IN MY SOUL.
MINE IS BLACK MAGIC.
I HADN'T REALIZED HOW MUCH USING IT AGAINST S'YM...
...WOULD CHANGE ME.
I'M DROWNING INSIDE!
MORE AND MORE CERTAIN...
...THAT'S THE REAL ME--
-- AND THIS, THE ILLUSION.
Oh, ROOMIE--
-- WHERE ARE YOU...
...WHEN I NEED YOU MOST?!
IN THE HOSPITAL-- WITH MY BIG BROTHER-- AN OCEAN AWAY FROM HERE!
MORTALLY WOUNDED--SHE'S DYING-- AND, FOR ALL MY STINKING POWERS, MUTANT AND MAGICKAL--
...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO SAVE HER!

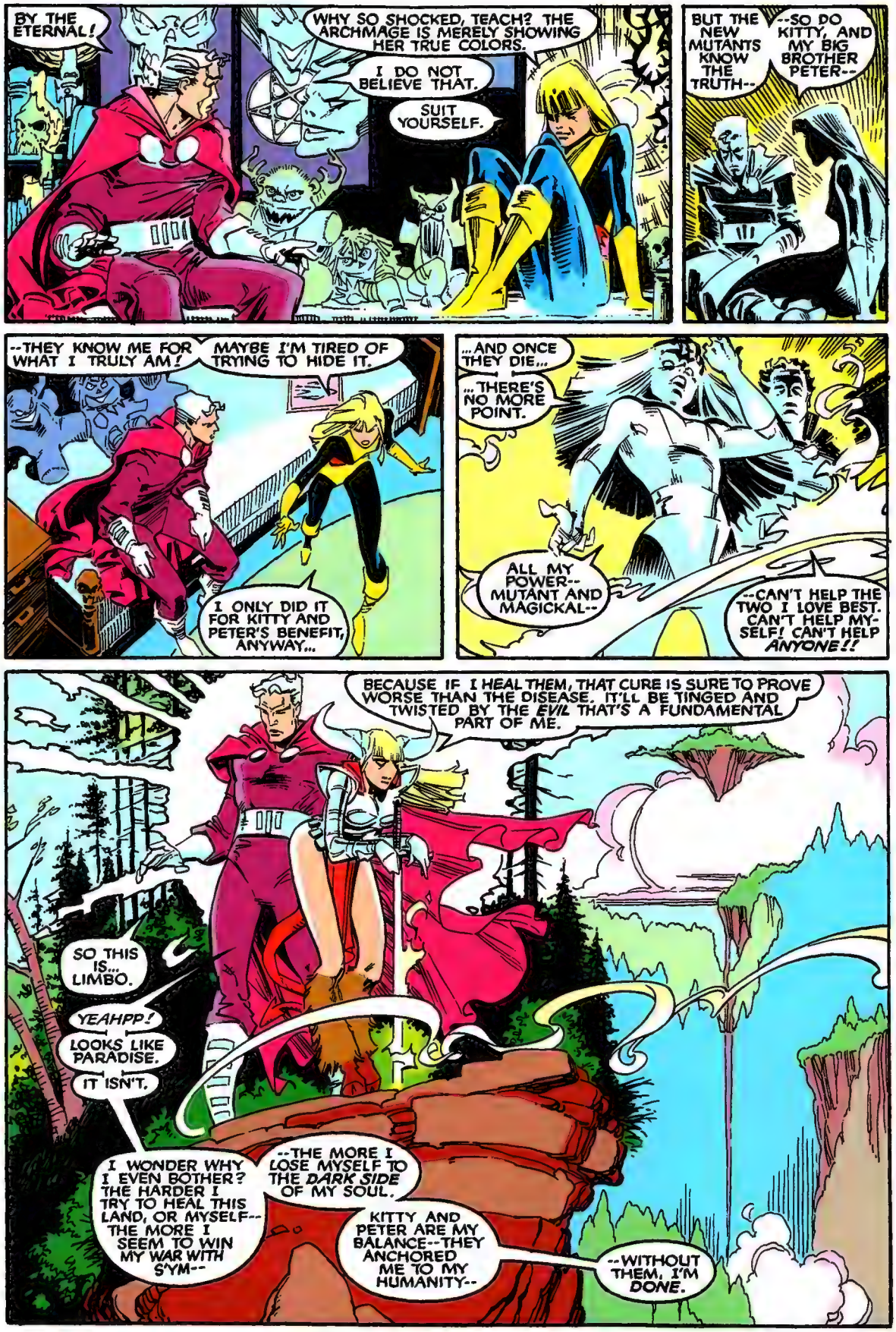

XAVIER'S SCHOOL.
THE CARRIAGE HOUSE...
...WHERE MIRAGE BOARDS...
...HER WINGED ASGARDIAN STALLION, BRIGHTWIND.
MISS ME, BIG GUY? I SURE MISSED YOU.
WE MUTANTS HAD SOME WILD ADVENTURES, Y'KNOW, BOUNCING HELTER-SKELTER THROUGH SPACE AND TIME.
HALF THE TEAM TRAPPED IN ONE FUTURE, HALF IN ANOTHER.
I SAW BOBBY AND AMARA RULING A WORLD WHERE MUTANTS RULE, AND ORDINARY PEOPLE...
...ARE TREATED WORSE THAN ANIMALS.
I SWORE I'D DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT THAT-- BUT WHAT?!
HOW DO I CHANGE THE FUTURE, WHEN I DON'T KNOW THE PAST THAT CREATED IT?!!
WHIFFLE?
Hmmh? COMPANY??
'TIS ONLY ME.
IN THE FUTURE I SAW...
...YOU AN' SAM WERE THE ONLY SURVIVORS...
... AN' A LIFETIME OF WAR...
...HAD MADE YOU CRUEL BEYOND IMAGINING.
TELL ME, DANI--HOW DO I PREVENT THAT AWFUL WORLD, WHERE ALL MUTANTS WERE MURDERED, FROM COMING TO PASS??
SAME WAY...
...I WILL--
--BY TAKING LIFE A DAY AT A TIME...
...AND HOPING, WORKING FOR THE BEST!
DANI-- WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
WE'RE BOTH TOO DARN GLUM AN' GLOOMY FOR WORDS!


IT'S A LOVELY DAY, FURTOP!
LET'S ENJOY IT!
THIS IS MADNESS!
AIN'T IT, THOUGH.
BUT OH SO MUCH FUN!
TRUST ME, KIDDO! BLEAK AS THOSE FUTURES LOOK...
...WE'LL FIND A WAY TO BEAT 'EM!
LOOK! THERE ARE SAM AN' BOBBY!
THAT GUY-- HE LOVES SOCCER ABOUT AS MUCH AS HE DOES "MAGNUM, P.I."
HEADS UP, BOBBY!
GALS FLYIN' BY.
IGNORE THEM. WATCH ME.
THIS PRACTICE IS FOR YOUR BENEFIT.
AFTER ALL, SAM, I HAD TO LEARN BASEBALL.
ONLY FAIR YOU LEARN MY FAVORITE SPORT.
HOY, YOU TWO-- DON'T FORGET OUR GAME THIS AFTERNOON!
WE'LL BE THERE!
AN' WE'LL WHUP YOU GOOD!
HAH!
THAT'LL BE THE DAY!


A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY.
IF ONLY IT WERE THE RULE...
...AND NOT THE EXCEPTION.
WAS I TOO HARSH ON THEM?
IT'S FOR THEIR OWN GOOD.
EASY TO SAY-- BUT HOW CAN I BE CERTAIN?
WHAT A MESS!
NOK NOK
M'SIEU?
ENTER, KARMA.
ENERGY FLARES ACROSS THE ROOM AS THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM USES HIS POWER TO ADMIT HIS OLDEST PUPIL.
I HAVE FINISHED YOUR CORRESPONDENCE, M'SIEU.
THESE LETTERS REQUIRE YOUR SIGNATURE.
THANK YOU.
I CONFESS, SHAN...
"...I DOUBT I COULD MANAGE WITHOUT YOU.
M'SIEU IS TOO KIND.
THOSE FILES-- OUR EVALUATION REPORT CARDS!
AFTER YESTERDAY'S DEBACLE IN THE DANGER ROOM, WE HAVE PROBABLY ALL FAILED.
R. DaCOSTA
R. SINCLAIR
D.R
I HAVE THE MAIL, AS WELL.
ANYTHING URGENT?
YES.
MY BROTHER AND SISTER-- LEONG AND NGA-- ARE STILL MISSING.
THEY DISAPPEARED THE DAY THE MARAUDERS ATTACKED.
ARE THEY LOST, WERE THEY KIDNAPED?
I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THEY ARE...
OR EVEN IF THEY ARE STILL ALIVE!
I AM DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FIND THEM.


FORGIVE ME, MAGNETO, IT IS NOT ENOUGH.
I WISH TO SEARCH FOR THEM MYSELF.
OUT OF THE QUESTION.
MUST I STAND IDLY BY--
--WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO HELP?!
PERHAPS YOU CAN ABANDON THOSE YOU LOVE. I CANNOT!
AND IF THE MARAUDERS ARE INVOLVED?
WOULD YOU FARE ANY BETTER AGAINST THEM IN REALITY THAN YOU DID IN THE DANGER ROOM?
WHAT USE WOULD YOU BE TO YOUR FAMILY, THEN?
ALL I ASK, CHILD, IS THAT YOU TRUST ME...
"...AND ACCEPT THAT MY DICTATES ARE FOR THE BEST."
JE COMPREND, MONSIEUR--
I UNDER-STAND--
--BUT I WILL NEVER ACCEPT!
SHAN'S BROTHER AND SISTER MAY ALSO BE MUTANTS.
CEREBRO WAS DESIGNED TO DETECT...
...THE UNIQUE GENETIC MATRIX OF HOMO SAPIENS SUPERIOR.
THE SYSTEM WAS DESTROYED BY SABRE-TOOTH WHEN HE ATTACKED THE MANSION.*
*X-MEN #213 --AnnN.
IF I CAN REPAIR IT...
...I MIGHT BE ABLE...
...TO LOCATE...
I FAILED.
FWAKSH!
AGAIN.


LATER...
THOSE SIGNS MIGHT BE SEEN ON ANY TEENAGER'S DOOR.
IN ILLYANA'S CASE, HOWEVER, THE WARNINGS ARE SERIOUS.
BEWARE OF THE DEMONS
KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING
DANGER
WITH A THOUGHT, MAGNETO'S SUIT-- MADE OF A METAL MATERIAL THAT'S STRONGER THAN STEEL, YET PLIABLE AND COMFORTABLE AS CLOTH--
--BECOMES HIS COSTUME.
HELLO, ILLYANA.
I HAVE A PROBLEM...
...AND I WAS WONDERING -- HOPING, ACTUALLY-- YOU MIGHT HELP ME RESOLVE IT.
I AM HEADMASTER.
THAT MEANS I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU ALL. TO TEACH YOU. TO LOOK AFTER YOU.
BUT WHAT AM I TO DO-- HOW AM I TO DEAL-- WITH A STUDENT WHO DELIBERATELY FLOUTS MY AUTHORITY?
IF I TOLERATE SUCH BEHAVIOR, I LOSE ALL RESPECT. IF I RESPOND THE WRONG WAY, I MIGHT WELL DRIVE THAT STUDENT AWAY.
YOU'VE GOT THE POWER.
YOU COULD FORCE OBEDIENCE.
DOES BEING THE STRONGEST...
...AUTOMATICALLY GIVE ONE THE RIGHT TO "FORCE" OBEDIENCE?
WITHOUT POWER, YOU'RE ALWAYS A VICTIM.
IS THAT WHAT YOU WISH TO BE?
YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME?
THAT ISN'T WHY I'M HERE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?! YOU CAN'T HELP!
I HAVE TO TRY.
THEN, MAYBE...
...YOU'D BETTER SEE WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST!


BY THE ETERNAL!
WHY SO SHOCKED, TEACH? THE ARCHMAGE IS MERELY SHOWING HER TRUE COLORS.
I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT.
SUIT YOURSELF.
BUT THE NEW MUTANTS KNOW THE TRUTH--
--SO DO KITTY, AND MY BIG BROTHER PETER--
--THEY KNOW ME FOR WHAT I TRULY AM!
MAYBE I'M TIRED OF TRYING TO HIDE IT.
I ONLY DID IT FOR KITTY AND PETER'S BENEFIT, ANYWAY...
...AND ONCE THEY DIE...
...THERE'S NO MORE POINT.
ALL MY POWER--MUTANT AND MAGICKAL--
--CAN'T HELP THE TWO I LOVE BEST. CAN'T HELP MYSELF! CAN'T HELP ANYONE!!
BECAUSE IF I HEAL THEM, THAT CURE IS SURE TO PROVE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE. IT'LL BE TINGED AND TWISTED BY THE EVIL THAT'S A FUNDAMENTAL PART OF ME.
SO THIS IS... LIMBO.
YEAHPP!
LOOKS LIKE PARADISE.
IT ISN'T.
I WONDER WHY I EVEN BOTHER? THE HARDER I TRY TO HEAL THIS LAND, OR MYSELF--THE MORE I SEEM TO WIN MY WAR WITH SYM--
--THE MORE I LOSE MYSELF TO THE DARK SIDE OF MY SOUL.
KITTY AND PETER ARE MY BALANCE--THEY ANCHORED ME TO MY HUMANITY--
--WITHOUT THEM, I'M DONE.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Mastercard, I'm bored. The friendly natives will entertain me."

—The Punisher
PUNISHER #1

ITEM: After eighteen years as a division of Cadence Industries Corporation, the mighty **Marvel Comics Group** is now marching to the sound of a different drummer. **Marvel** has recently been purchased by *New World Pictures Ltd.*, a Los Angeles based motion picture and television production company whose recent successes include the movie *Soul Man* and the television hits *Sledge Hammer* and *Crime Story*. How will this change of owners affect **Marvel Comics**? Probably not in any way that you readers will notice. After all, you don't mess with success. But, where it will make a *big* difference is in **Marvel's** ability to get its characters up there on the silver screen and television airways. It's like having an inside track now. *Wow!* A *New Universe* and a *New World*—all in the same year!

ITEM: Look out, bookstores! **Marvel** people are invading the shelves where prose novels are displayed. Earlier this year **Star** editor Sid Jacobson's historical novel *Streets of Gold* was published by Pocket Books to such great success that serious Sidney is burning the midnight oil pounding out a follow-up. Now Marvel's direct sales manager Peter David has struck with a science fiction opus published by Ace Books entitled *Knightlife*. Congratulations, fellas, and many more successes! (Incidentally, the Stan Lee whose novel *Dunn's Conundrum* hit the bestseller lists in '86 is not the same Stan Lee who is our peerless publisher. We kid you not . . . they just happen to have the same noms de plume!)

ITEM: And speaking of name mix-ups, we would hereby like to quash the rumor that **Marvel's** own Ralph Macchio (editor of DAREDEVIL, THOR, and D.P. 7, among others) is the same teenaged Ralph Macchio who has starred in various movies such as *The Karate Kid* and *Rumble Fish*. Really, it's one thing for a **Marvel** staffer to moonlight as a novelist, but another thing to have a Hollywood career going on the side. So all you teenaged girls who keep sending cards, pictures, letters, and bouquets to our Ralph in the mistaken notion there's only one Ralph Macchio in the world, desist. Well, okay, you can still send bouquets.

ITEM: Let's hear it for *Jim Novak*, letterer extraordinaire on such titles as THE AVENGERS, ALPHA FLIGHT, and ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN, who has recently signed on as **Marvel's** *Production Manager*. Jim, who prefers to be called anything but "Mister Novak" (the title of an old television show about a teacher a few decades back), is no stranger to this phase of our batty bullpen, having served as a staff letterer from the summer of 1975 to early 1977, and acting Production Manager for a few months in the summer of 1985. Jim has brought real flair to his job. One of his nifty innovations has been the installation of a public announcement system. When Jim talks to the Bullpen, he uses his Bullhorn, and he doesn't put up with Bull-oney. (Think the guy is taking this stuff too seriously? Nah! Not a chance.)

ITEM: If you're interested in meeting a few members of Jim Novak's illustrious and industrious production staff, check out this month's edition of *Universe News* (which appears in every one of our **New Universe** titles), and feast your eyes . . .

ITEM: We'd like to take a moment to publicly thank our former production manager Anita Duncan and the folks at WNEW-AM radio for arranging to throw a special Christmas party for all of us here at mighty **Marvel**! Anita entered us in WNEW's annual Christmas party contest (hailing us as the real super heroes in the comic book industry) . . . and we won! Radio greats like *Ted Brown*, *Nola Roper* and *John Pizzarelli* brought tons of food, oceans of drink, and oodles of goodies to help us celebrate the holidays and usher in the New Year! Thanks, guys! You throw one heck of a party!

CHECKLIST

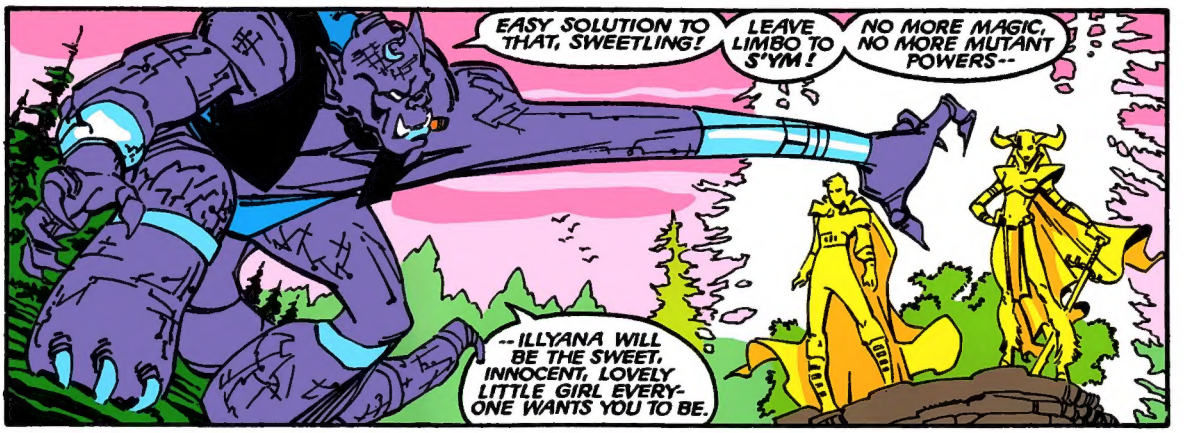
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #243**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #52**
- ☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #7**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #27**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #21**—Guest starring Moon Knight!
- ☐ **COMET MAN (Limited Series) #5**—With the Fantastic Four and the debut of Comet Boy!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #5**—Aerial action!
- ☐ **AVENGERS VS. THE X-MEN (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #47**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #330**—Presenting Night Shift, some of the baddest villains you'll ever meet!
- ☐ **FALLEN ANGELS (Limited Series) #3**—Guest starring X-Factor!
- ☐ **STRANGE TALES #3**—With two great features, Doctor Strange and Cloak & Dagger!
- ☐ **POWER PACK #30**—Crack, the menace of the '80s, invades the Power kids' school!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #289**—It's here at last! And it takes a *double-sized issue* to bring you the ultimate revelation of . . . the Hobgoblin!
- ☐ **MEPHISTO VS. THE X-MEN (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #280**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #332**—The return of the Hulk's greatest nemesis—The Leader!
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #7**
- ☐ **X-MEN #218**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #195**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #60**—Meet Zanzibar, the Dreadnok Pirate!
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #19**—Introducing the New Avengers, Daredevil's red costume, Nick Fury and Hydra, not to mention "The Trial of the Gods!"
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #200**—A *double-sized* classic from *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #14!* Don't miss "Bend Sinister" by DENNY O'NEIL and FRANK MILLER!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #303**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #219**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #127**
- ☐ **THOR #380**—Every page is a splash when Thor battles the Midgard Serpent!
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #17**—The funeral of the Angel.
- ☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #10**—Reprinting *X-Men #102*, with a new story by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BOLTON.
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #29**—The Scraplets feed on living metal—like the Transformers!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE DIGEST #4**—Reprinting *G.I. Joe #9–11*.
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #16**—Beginning here—the secrets of those who have died!
- ☐ **AVENGERS INDEX #1**—In our new deluxe format, the start of the complete story of Earth's Mightiest Heroes! You won't believe some of the incredible changes they went through in *Avengers #1–23*! Read all about it!

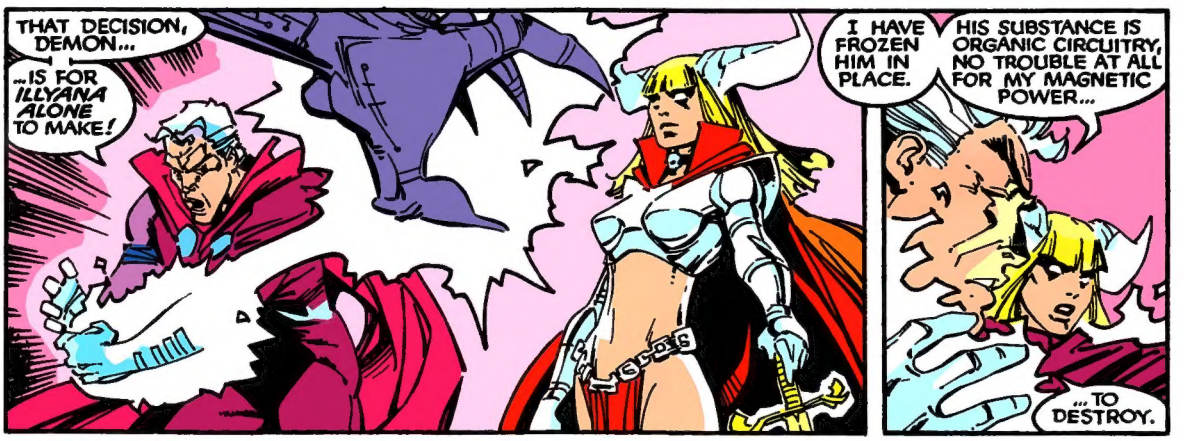
MARVEL MAGAZINES

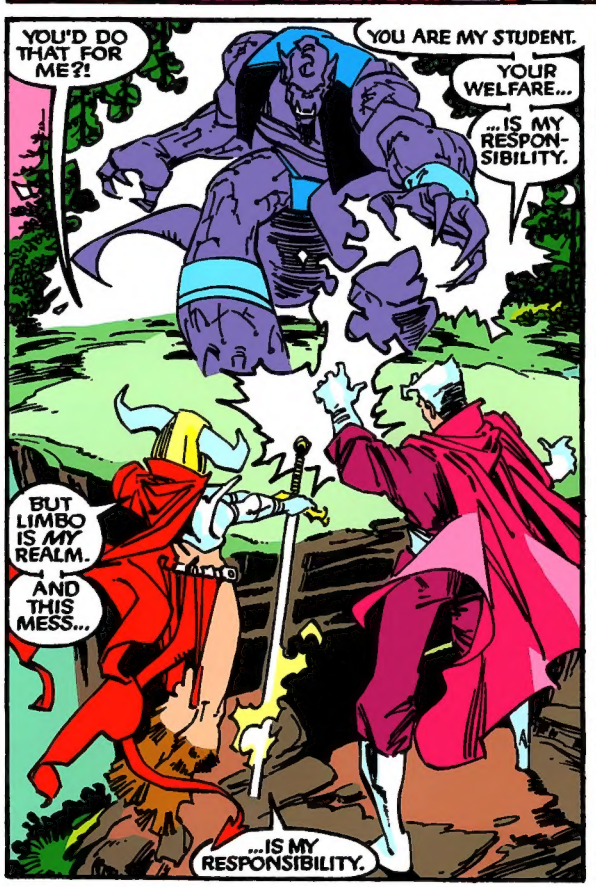
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #51**—Spotlighting the new Silver Surfer series! Also, more info about everything you see here!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #136**
- ☐ **CLASSIC CONAN #1**—Because you demanded it! A new black-and-white magazine to showcase the long out-of-print stories you wanted to read! Featuring the story that started it all, "The Coming of Conan" by ROY THOMAS and BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **EMPEROR DOOM**—Doctor Doom has taken over the world. It's up to the East and West Coast Avengers to stop him—but they're on his side! Is there no one to stop Doom from claiming a total victory? Only DAVID MICHELINIE (writer) and BOB HALL (artist) know the answer, and they're not talking!

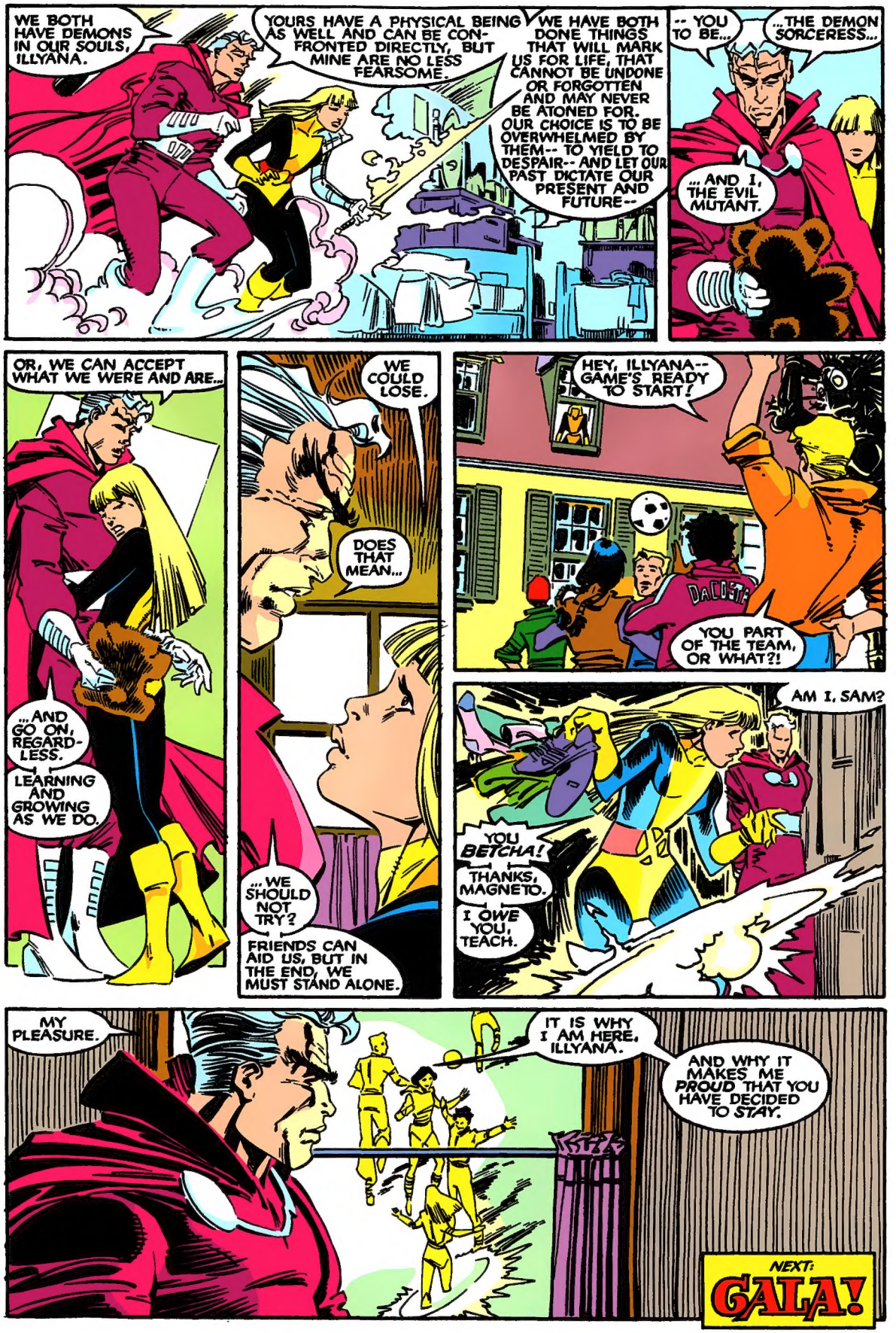

EASY SOLUTION TO THAT, SWEETLING!
LEAVE LIMBO TO S'YM!
NO MORE MAGIC, NO MORE MUTANT POWERS--
--ILLYANA WILL BE THE SWEET, INNOCENT, LOVELY LITTLE GIRL EVERY-ONE WANTS YOU TO BE.


THAT DECISION, DEMON...
...IS FOR ILLYANA ALONE TO MAKE!
I HAVE FROZEN HIM IN PLACE.
HIS SUBSTANCE IS ORGANIC CIRCUITRY, NO TROUBLE AT ALL FOR MY MAGNETIC POWER...
...TO DESTROY.


YOU'D DO THAT FOR ME?!
YOU ARE MY STUDENT.
YOUR WELFARE...
...IS MY RESPON-SIBILITY.
BUT LIMBO IS MY REALM.
AND THIS MESS...
...IS MY RESPONSIBILITY.

I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MY OWN PROBLEMS, DON'T I?
AND THE WAY I DO IT IS AS IMPORTANT AS WHAT I CHOOSE TO DO--THAT'S WHAT YOU TOLD ME.

LET S'YM GO.
I'LL FIND A BETTER WAY TO BEAT HIM.


WE BOTH HAVE DEMONS IN OUR SOULS, ILLYANA.
YOURS HAVE A PHYSICAL BEING AS WELL AND CAN BE CONFRONTED DIRECTLY, BUT MINE ARE NO LESS FEARSOME.
WE HAVE BOTH DONE THINGS THAT WILL MARK US FOR LIFE, THAT CANNOT BE UNDONE OR FORGOTTEN AND MAY NEVER BE ATONED FOR. OUR CHOICE IS TO BE OVERWHELMED BY THEM-- TO YIELD TO DESPAIR-- AND LET OUR PAST DICTATE OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE--
-- YOU TO BE...
...THE DEMON SORCERESS...
...AND I, THE EVIL MUTANT.
OR, WE CAN ACCEPT WHAT WE WERE AND ARE...
...AND GO ON, REGARDLESS.
LEARNING AND GROWING AS WE DO.
WE COULD LOSE.
DOES THAT MEAN...
...WE SHOULD NOT TRY?
FRIENDS CAN AID US, BUT IN THE END, WE MUST STAND ALONE.
HEY, ILLYANA-- GAME'S READY TO START!
YOU PART OF THE TEAM, OR WHAT?!
AM I, SAM?
YOU BETCHA!
THANKS, MAGNETO.
I OWE YOU, TEACH.
MY PLEASURE.
IT IS WHY I AM HERE, ILLYANA.
AND WHY IT MAKES ME PROUD THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO STAY.
NEXT: GALA!

REPORT CARD

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TERRY KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Mutant Masters,

What can one say about NEW MUTANTS #45 other than—fantastic! It was a superb piece of writing, particularly the way you portrayed Kitty Pryde.

It all clicked so well, and it was the small touches that made the story. For example, Magma wearing booties made out of potholders while cooking breakfast, Kitty's reaction to her roomie's popularity, Wolfsbane seeing through Bodine's little act, and Warlock playing Cagney.

I sincerely hope that the New Mutants catch up with X-Factor and let them know how their ad campaign terrorized Bodine into suicide. That's unforgivable, and I think the "original" X-Men need a serious lesson. They may be trying to carry on Xavier's dream, but they've warped it and are no better than Magneto at his worst.

Speaking of Magneto, I loved the interaction between him and Ms. Hogarth. As much as they see each other, maybe something might blossom, eh? It's funny seeing Magneto, one of the most powerful mutants on Earth, playing chaperone at a teen dance. Never woulda thunk it, y'know?

How about some more interaction between the X-Men and the New Mutants? You've shown Colossus working with Sunspot, how about Wolverine working with Wolfsbane on developing her tracking powers, Rogue helping Cannonball with flight, Nightcrawler helping Magik refine her teleporting, etc.?

Where's Karma?

Sp 4 Ken Blackburn
CMR-P
APO New York, 09102
(Heidelberg, West Germany)

Karma's busy looking for her missing brother and sister these days, Ken, but she *is* officially back with the New Mutants. For now, that is. We have some mighty interesting things in store for our Vietnamese mutant that'll shock even the most jaded fans out there! Check out NEW MUTANTS #54 to see what we're talking about!

Dear Mutant Marvel Masterworkers,

After reading NEW MUTANTS #45, I knew that I, and everyone else who reads this magazine, should write you. The way you handled the topic of teenage suicide was done excellently. Kitty Pryde's speech moved me more than any other character's dialogue has in a long time. This statement applies to novels as well as comic magazines.

As for the characterization of the New Mutants, all that can be said is that this was simply one of the best issues ever put into print.

On a lighter side, I actually managed to get my mother to read this issue. Believe it or not, she liked it, and she normally abhors comics.

Manuel Vargas
Bakersfield, CA

Dear Marvel and Chris Claremont,

I just finished reading NEW MUTANTS #45, and I have never been so touched by words in a comic book in my life. This story hits home in a big way—my name is Larry, so to me it was more than just a story.

I, for one, will start treating people more like they should be treated, with all the love and respect that I would like to receive. I am 16 yrs. old and have thought about suicide myself. My advice—don't even think about it! If you keep up this kind of writing, THE NEW MUTANTS will be, without a doubt, my favorite comic of all time! Thank you.

Larry A. Smith
(No Address Given)

Dear Chris,

I just wanted to commend you on the two most recent stories in the NEW MUTANTS series. NEW MUTANTS #45 was, quite simply, one of the best issues I've read since the inception of the series.

Larry Bodine seemed to me to be the archetypal mutant wanting to use his power in any capacity, but afraid of the anti-mutant bigotry that seems to be an ever-lasting reality in the Marvel Universe.

Kitty's reaction was a typical yet understandable one. She's still young and although she's seen death before, this particular one hit her so very close to home. Dani made a statement that will always hold true for all murderers. Killing carries a price, and to kill a murderer allows that person to escape his punishment.

The NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #2 was intriguing, to say the least. This story showed us two seemingly minor characters in a new light—Doug Ramsey and Warlock. Doug has a talent that is basically non-combatant, he is the weakest link in the New Mutants' chain. Warlock is an alien, he doesn't understand Earth or its people very well. He has an interesting and versatile talent, but it has obvious drawbacks. Neither of those two really fits in, so naturally they turn to each other. In this story, Doug and 'Lock proved to be more than a match for Spiral and Mojo. Doug was courageous enough to chance a complete meld with Warlock so they could enter Betsy's mind. Doug also figured out a way to save his friends, and with 'Lock's talent, he achieved his goal. And Doug gained a new friend. Warlock gained a new sense of self (no pun intented) through the meld, and he may now have a better idea of human feelings and emotions.

This story also pointed out the inner strength of Amara. She knows slavery of any kind is not right, and fights her captors as best she can. Amy is a part of the Mutants' inner strength. I would like to see her in a solo story soon.

Matt Wilbur
3454 Idaho Dr.
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

All of the Mutants have untapped potential, Matt, and that's the very point of the Annual. But if you thought that was surprising, wait till you hear what we have in store . . .

Believe it or not, our junior X-Men's potentials are about to be realized by someone other than Chris Claremont. Yes, Chris is taking a well-deserved leave of absence from NEW MUTANTS to work on his first novel, a science-fiction adventure that spans more than one galaxy. It's called "Firstflight" and it's due out in January, 1988 from ACE BOOKS. Watch for it—mutant fans will love it!
Meanwhile, starting with NEW MUTANTS #55, Louise Simonson will temporarily be taking over the reins of the book. And you know we can expect big things from the writer-extraordinaire of POWER PACK and X-FACTOR!

Dear Ann, Chris, and Alan,

It took six long months, but at last the waiting is over. Alan Davis and Captain Britain, the team supreme, were finally reunited and in print again. But, when I got my hands on NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL #2, I was somewhat taken aback by what was, apparently, a mere cameo appearance by the Captain. And who the heck was the kid wearing his mask? Why was everyone smiling?

One swift read later and my questions were answered, my disappointment abated, my confidence in Claremont restored. Little criticisms about Captain Britain's minor role, Karma's non-appearance, and the fact that the story content didn't allow Davis to really draw the New Mutants as a team soon faded in the face of further proof that the NEW MUTANTS is the best book on the market. Most gratifying was the fact that Chris remained faithful to events that had already occurred in the Captain's own late, lamented title, as opposed to just introducing Brian and Elizabeth in some off-the-wall fashion. The use of the "It's hard to be a hero" slogan from CB 13 in relation to Elizabeth and Doug gave the book a nice touch of symmetry.

I, for one, am happy that Psylocke will be joining the X-Men, as it will bring Captain Britain closer to the mainstream Marvel universe, without forcing him on it. This is something that has long been overdue. Hopefully, Brian will guest-star in either THE X-MEN or NEW MUTANTS again in the near future. Two points about Psylocke—Alan Davis gave Elizabeth a distinct dress sense in the CAPTAIN BRITAIN series, so I hope you adhere to it. Second, I persist in calling Elizabeth just that because it has been stated that she and the Captain are both 29 years old, and at that age, Betsy is a name best reserved for a donkey.

What can be said about the art that wouldn't be stating the obvious? Suffice it to say that in a creative community that boasts such talents as Byrne, Miller, Arthur Adams, Sienkiewicz and many others, Alan Davis can hold his own against the best of them. That Marvel hasn't chained him to a regular assignment is criminal. If the appropriate vacancies ever arise, I would be very happy to see Davis take over the art chores on either THE X-MEN or NEW MUTANTS. Better yet, of course, would be to see an American CAPTAIN BRITAIN monthly produced by Davis and a British writer. Just let me add, that I suspect Davis was heavily influenced by the "Man's Best Friend" books when it comes to drawing Warlock.

Thanks for listening.

Peter A. Gallagher
SCOTLAND

Thanks for writing, Peter. And don't worry about Psylocke's costume—it made its official debut in X-MEN #213, penciled by none-other-than Alan Davis. If people like his design-sense half as much as his work on the NEW MUTANTS ANNUAL, we're gonna have a lot of happy fans out there! Let us know what you folks think!

MINUTEMEN
Quick
STOP
RST